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Soviet Union

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ZAMYATIN: NO TALKS UNLESS DEPLOYMENT ABANDONED

AU140920 Rome ANSA in English 0845 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, March 14 -- Soviet official Leonid Zamyatin told a conference on East-West ties here that it did not seem very rational to unify negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear missiles and strategic nuclear missiles. To merge fruitless negotiations with talks that have come to nothing would mean multiplying the trouble by two, he said.

A party official who heads the International Information Department, Zamyatin also indicated that there will be no resumption of the talks unless the U.S. abandons the installation of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe.

He said that the Soviet Union was extremely concerned over the threat that NATO's armament poses to the nuclear balance in Europe and over U.S. policy in the Middle East and in Central America.

Zamyatin told the conference, organized by "IRI" that the Soviet Union wants a constructive dialogue with the West but that it did not depend only on the Soviet side. Appeals alone will not thaw relations, he said.

The USSR will cooperate with all states willing to help create conditions of confidence, he went on.

With regard to Italy, he noted that Italo-Soviet relations flourished in all fields during the period of detente.

FALIN WRITES ON NATURE OF ARMS CONTROL

PM131654 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Valentin Falin "Political Observer's Opinion": "Concerning Control"]

[Text] Trust, but verify -- this is a well-established rule. It is practically a norm in relations between states. It is like two sides of the same coin. But coins themselves can be different. A coin commemorating Mars, or a coin extolling love of peace. What kind of coin are the politicians minting? This is no idle question. Our present and future depend on the answer to this question.

Heaps of useless goods repel rather than attract. When it is a question of armaments, heaps of weapons are frightening. But what about heaps of words? Any useful undertaking can be crushed in the mill of verbiage and buried beneath layers of the most florid flummery as well as abuse if the words are being used to advocate dishonesty, when they are being used to beautify evil or to sugar treachery. So there are words and words.

In the Beginning Was the Deed

Recently absolutely every speech by a NATO figure has included a mention of equilibrium, trust, and control. They are like bridges carrying into the consciousness of the listeners images of friends and enemies, bridges conveying the transport of shock arguments and buckets of mud which is smeared thickly on the gates of rivals.

But equilibrium begins with balanced, that is, objective information. With a sober view of things. With an ability to recognize oneself in a mirror that does not flatter. One cannot talk about equilibrium if all U.S. military programs are based on false initial data -- on the military potential of the "probable adversary," his policy and even his ideology.

How much equilibrium is left when they use their own trumped-up lies as a "pretext for doing what the United States would have done anyway?" What kind of equilibrium do you have if the "safeguarding of the security" of the United States involves the destruction of the socialist system in the USSR and the chopping up of the Soviet state into protectorates like the American reservations or South African homelands? How can they contrive at all to marry equilibrium to the principle of attaining "decisive superiority," which is seen as a prerequisite of U.S. world "leadership"?

Trust is fine when it is serious and apposite, or not for the purpose of a tawdry masquerade. Indeed, as we say, in the end it's the mind that counts, not outward appearances. Trust is not increased by the fact that they daub quotations from the "holy scriptures" on missiles or blasphemously call a ballistic missile submarine Corpus Christi.

Washington has already demonstrated in Grenada how it intends to interpret the "holy scriptures" in relation to small, defenseless peoples. In the worldwide anticommunist "crusade" Reagan is in the process of raising a head of steam and he is trying to patch up misunderstandings with the allies. During the detente era the latter, it is said, began to suspect that the United States was going to pawn them for... "peaceful coexistence" with the USSR. Their suspicions were so great that they sold their souls to the devil.

Let us assume that the latest first-strike systems have gone down well in NATO and have cemented the alliance as a mutual guarantee. But why should the satisfaction of the needs of this bloc be good for everyone else? Why isn't Washington or Bonn, Paris or London enthusiastic about what is good for the Warsaw Pact? Without unity and trust among the Atlantic crowd, they will reply, there can be no international trust. But solidarity declines when tension abates and military activity is run down. So keep on spinning the flywheel of the arms race and every twirl effected by the United States and its allies will be an important "service" to the cause of peace, since the weapons will be used -- first, what is more -- "against sin and evil," no less. How incredibly convincing!

One Down, Carry Three

But what if one puts aside the elastic NATO yardstick and approaches the situation from a commonsense viewpoint? Unless you accept that the United States has the right to act arbitrarily for "charitable purposes," then you will have to agree that the deployment of first-strike systems, particularly in close proximity to a "potential adversary," is incompatible with the task of establishing trust and maintaining stability. As it is with respect for one's own signature on international agreements. Didn't the SALT II treaty contain a special commitment not to upset the established balance of strategic forces by any circumvention? It did. But the United States is disregarding the treaty and deploying Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe to increase its strategic potential. In violation of this and other treaties it is engaged in frantic preparations for war on land, at sea, and in space.

Wherefore such gloom, object the advocates of a buildup of military might combined with extra efforts in the trust sphere. It will all work out, they assure us, if the acquisition of new systems is accompanied by stricter control. "Exchange of information," "improved opportunities for rapid communication between governments," and the "ensuring of control" -- that's all there is to it, to quote R. Reagan. This is the way, Washington states, to "reduce the chance of any misunderstanding or error" and even the threat of "sudden attack" or "preemptive strikes." It is not the weapons that are terrible, nor is it the idea of using them: It is the gaps in the statistics and the unclear coordinates. The more weapons ther are and the more formidable they are, the better. But one does need more thorough and comprehensive control. An "x-ray picture" of the European part of the Soviet Union and, even better, of the Asian part too is quite adequate for European security.

The argument takes a logical course. Nor from the viewpoint of strengthening peace, of course, but bearing in mind: (a) the number and nature of targets the NATO planners intend to hit on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries; (b) the desire to establish the location of the targets to ensure the effective and "economical" use of highly accurate weapon systems; (c) the aim of the preemptive use of force by the NATO bloc in critical circumstances; (d) Washington's view of war as an extension of politics and the intention to achieve "success" in it at all costs.

There Is Verification and Verification

I want to make it perfectly clear and say that I have no doubt about the need for trust and the importance of control. Without them people will have to carry on living in the grip of the doctrines of "deterrence" or, at best, "balance of terror" until man loses control of the savage monsters he has himself created. But there is trust and trust, and there is control and control.

Preparation for war is a very ordinary and specific occupation. It comprises producing and stockpiling weapons, training servicemen to use them, and assessing the ability of the victim of the planned aggression to repel it. Elementary. So ask yourself what additional consequences fascist Germany's perfidious attack would have had if it had possessed an "x-ray picture" of the Soviet defense potential. In mid-October 1941 Hitler was starting to whine, after suffering some setbacks: "On 22 June we flung open the door not knowing what lay behind it." How many millions would we have had to add to the 20 million Soviet people killed in the struggle against the Nazi invasion if Hitler's generals had known in advance everything they wanted to know? This experience has not been forgotten, and it will never be erased from the people's memory.

But there are many other things we have not mentioned, including the plans to attack the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons which have been elaborated by U.S. generals and approved by U.S. presidents. Some people in Washington continue to this day to pass off D. Eisenhower's "open sky" proposal as a certificate of "U.S. love of peace." How attractive it sounded in 1955! Let's renounce all secrets, except one -- the American one -- and break all the seals, except for the seven which at that time were protecting the "Dropshot" plan for the destruction of the Soviet Union. According to the plan, the war was to begin 1 January 1957. An "open sky" would have been very handy. They needed it so badly that they willfully and secretly sought to cover the Soviet sky with high-flying U-2's. And presumably it wasn't out of trust that they went on telling barefaced lies about not being involved in flights by intruder aircraft.

Shall we go on? Let us switch to the seventies. Detente is on the upgrade. In June 1973 a Soviet-American agreement was signed on the prevention of nuclear war. It would come to light subsequently that Washington was then on the point of completing the preparation of Presidential Memorandum 242 -- the first version of the counterforce doctrine for disarming the enemy by sudden "surgical" or massive nuclear strikes, foreshadowing Directive No 59 by Carter and No 32 by Reagan.

Vienna, June 1979. The SALT II treaty is being signed, recording the pledge by the sides not to seek military superiority, but to base defense policy on equality and identical security. But secretly, with Carter himself involved, the way was being paved toward undermining parity by deploying near the Soviet Union "intermediate-range" strategic missiles possessing a "unique potential" by virtue of their accuracy and "penetrating warhead" characteristics.

What do you want me to believe: the words or the facts? No high-speed direct link, no device for transmitting pictures as well as text can begin to make up for the damage to trust caused by the very existence of armaments capable of "decapitating," if not intended to "decapitate" -- we are citing the Pentagon's documents -- the other side to the accompaniment of cooing over the red telephone and contemplation of rebuses on the visual display.

How great are the chances of controlling in any way first-strike systems like cruise, Pershing, Trident II, and MX missiles up to the moment of launching? After launching it is already to late to control them. But developments, unless they are halted, are headed in the direction of the creation of weapons which in principle are not subject to control.

In what way will security benefit, in the absence of a pledge not to use force, from the idea of control of "peaceful military exercises" which Secretary of State G. Shultz proposes --limiting them not in terms of scope and number, moreover, but only to make them more "forecastable " -- when the most real threat of a catastrophe is posed by facilities which have no or only the most indirect bearing on the maneuvers? How valuable is the observation of maneuvers rehearsing methods of first use of nuclear and other types of weapons in the context of a possible reaction to events behind the "iron curtain," "in Iran," or for some kind of "defense?" Why does the West put the emphasis on "unsanctioned," "accidental" war, war resulting from a "misunderstanding"? Of course, in conditions of physical confrontation and given the present levels of armaments the accident factor cannot be ruled out. But the main threat is of the deliberate provoking of conflicts sanctioned by the White House -- in particular, as we have observed, in the Near East and in Central America. The main danger is that a war may be started for reasons of "expediency" and without any visible signs of mobilization, suddenly, without a buildup.

Why is the United States so keen to x-ray Soviet territory, while it does not have a burning desire to extend confidence-building and control measures to its home front? Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals is only geography, not security. Why does NATO say no to the creation of "nuclear-free zones?" Why do the United States and others like it have such low regard for the principle and political goodwill on which security and the productiveness of peaceful cooperation ultimately depend?

For Honest Cooperation

"I place experience," M.V. Lomonosov noted, "higher than a thousand opinions produced by the imagination alone," This idea is as true for politics as it is for the natural sciences. Control and confidence-building measures can easily turn from the blessing they should be in principle into the opposite. Trust may become the sugar coating for the bitter pill, and control -- the final prestrike reconnaissance.

For it to be worthy of its name, arms control should serve to curb the danger of war, not to reduce the risk of military adventures; to strengthen peace, not to indicate where its buttresses are vulnerable. For that very reason control and confidence-building measures, their level, volume, and quality, should be commensurate with the material measures on limiting and reducing arms stemming from the sides' pledges. The task of control is to reduce the temptation to rely on force and to make peaceful cooperation more attractive.

Control means correlation of word with deed, a comparison of past deeds with new ones, of new words and old which, having been uttered, are kept in their orbits by the inertia of the meaning they contain. The peaceable-sounding statements and calls for "dialogue" pouring from the U.S. Administration in recent weeks are not enough.

"The assurances of its good intentions, Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed at the meeting with voters, "can only be taken seriously if they are backed up by real action... The U.S. Government has many opportunities to demonstrate its love of peace through deeds." But we do not need talks that have been converted into an instrument of propaganda, a cover for the arms race and cold war. We can do without agreements designed to create a semblance of agreement, dialogues to create illusions that all is well.

The USSR is amenable to peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation with the states of all countries. It wants the peaceful solution of all disputes at the negotiating table. The USSR wants accords whose very letter is fulfilled unswervingly and forms part of the foundation of good-neighborliness. And it will collaborate fully with all states that are prepared to do something to help reduce international tension.

U.S. COMPUTATION OF USSR ARMS SPENDING HIT

LD131902 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 13 Mar 84

["Arithmetic American-Style" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes: The Warsaw Treaty member states recently addressed to the NATO member states a detailed and concrete proposal as regards talks on the question of not increasing and of reducing military expenditures. They stress that agreements on reductions in military expenditures should be implemented in such a way that all parties to them will be convinced of their fulfillment.

The Soviet Union and its allies are showing readiness to undertake together with the NATO member states joint efforts to look for realistic solutions to this question on a mutually acceptable basis. The United States and its NATO allies have not yet given an answer to these clear-cut and concrete proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member states and have limited themselves to the expression of feigned scepticism over the possibility of their realization. Representatives of Western powers, in particular, have explained their essentially negative attitude to the given proposals by the fact that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries do not recognize the methods of calculating military expenditures that are accepted in the C.I.A. and other government organizations of the United States.

What are the American "methods" of estimating the USSR's military expenditures, the methods that Washington is publicizing so eagerly? Seeking to overstate data about the military budgets of the socialist countries, intimidate the public with a "Soviet military threat" and justify the unbridled buildup of American armaments, C.I.A. "specialists," for example, compute the Soviet Union's expenditures on the maintenance of the personnel of its Armed Forces in a most unusual way. They take the aggregate number of Soviet servicemen and estimate the sum total on their annual upkeep on the basis of pay rates accepted in the United States. In doing this the C.I.A. completely ignores the fact that the Soviet Armed Forces are mostly provided with personnel through universal military service with minimum cash payments to soldiers, while the American servicemen are all mercenaries drawing very high monetary allowances.

As a result of such manipulations the C.I.A.'s data about the USSR's expenditures on the upkeep of soldiers and officers by far exceeds real allocations for the purpose. Pentagon propagandists compare in an analogous way also expenditures to buy military equipment for the Soviet and for the American Armies.

In the meantime, Washington's arithmetic limps not only in computing data concerning the USSR's military budget. The American side's estimates of the numerical strength of the Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty in central Europe, which U.S. diplomats are using at the Vienna talks, are just as absurd. With the stroke of a pen the American representatives in Vienna increase the number of the socialist [words indistinct] in central Europe by 150,000 to 180,000, refusing in doing so even to reveal the esssence of their methods of computations. Washington's continued use of such tricks in connection with talks that are of exceptional importance to the destiny of peace shows that the U.S. Administration has not adopted a soberer posture in international relations, including the question of reducing military expenditures.

U.S. 'YELLOW RAIN' REPORT, CW CAPABILITY SCORED

PM130921 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 84 Second Edition p 3

[A. Golts "Observer's Notes": "Why the Slanderers Don't Let Up"]

[Text] It seems as if people in Washington have decided to disprove the well known adage that victory always has many parents while defeat is, as a rule, an orphan. You see, people in the U.S. capital have no desire at all to give up a vile anti-Soviet calumny although its dissemination turned a long time ago into a serious defeat for both U.S. diplomacy and U.S. propaganda. We are talking about the fabrications, set in motion 3 years ago, that Soviet-made chemical weapons are allegedly used in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia.

This malicious nonsense has been repeatedly and authoritatively refuted by most eminent scientists from both socialist and Western countries. UN experts investigating this matter failed to find "any proof at all that Soviet chemical weapons are being used." They were followed by Australian and British biologists who not only rejected the fabrications about "Soviet chemical attacks" but also established the CIA's guilt of attempting to "specially manufacture" (in other words to forge) "evidence." Finally, eminent U.S. scientists, including Prof M. (Mizelson) of Harvard University, concluded that the famous "yellow rain" (this is the name Washington's slanderers use for the imaginary "Soviet chemical weapons") is nothing else but... bee excrement.

After this the luckless falsifiers were no longer even rebuffed. People started laughing at them. And the U.S. press, which initially was eager to disseminate the false claims, could not hide its annoyance. THE NEW YORK TIMES, indignant at the crude work done by the special services and the State Department, wrote: "The President and the secretary of state cannot be allowed to find themselves again in a position of advocating extreme theories on the basis of absolutely erroneous data."

It would appear that that would have been the end of the matter. After such resounding slaps in the face the authors of the fabrications should have been reassigned to I don't know what duties. But far from it. The State Department recently published yet another, the fourth, report on the same subject. Apart from its serial number, the report contains nothing else that is new: the very same testimonies by "witnesses" who have seen nothing, the very same "material evidence" which proves nothing. And, of course, complete lack of real proof, since such proof does not exist in nature.

But Washington is not satisfied even with the fourth report. People there are working at full speed gathering "material" for the fifth. They are gathering this material in a very strange way. This was described recently at a Kabul press conference, which has already been reported by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. At present the CIA is throwing gangsters armed with toxic agents into DRA territory. Their mission is to use these weapons in such a way as to "convince the world public that the Russians are using toxic agents in Afghanistan." At the same time the gangs operating on DRA territory receive special questionnaires with questions about imaginary "Soviet chemical weapons." Unwilling to rely on the cutthroats' imagination, the U.S. special services attach the desired answers to the questionnaires.

It is appropriate to ask why Washington is trying with such manic persistence to breathe life into a long-discredited fabrication. It is obvious that the issue goes beyond simple obstinacy. There are more serious reasons behind it.

Not so long ago the Warsaw Pact member states offered an important proposal to the NATO countries -- to reach agreement on ridding Europe of chemical weapons. This proposal has encountered wide support among those who desire seriously, not only in words, to banish the threat of chemical warfare from Europe, a threat which has significantly increased in today's tense international situation. With a view to clearing the way toward the conclusion of a convention banning chemical weapons, the Soviet Union submitted additional proposals a few days ago. Their purpose is to resolve primarily the issues which the United States and its allies have exploited for a long time to deadlock the talks on liquidating chemical weapons.

These are the questions of monitoring the observance of a future agreement. The Soviet Union proposes that use be made of national monitoring, national technical means, on-site monitoring within a voluntary framework, and regular international on-site inspections on an annual basis. Taking the partners' position into account and displaying a genuine interest in the progress of talks, the USSR has declared its readiness in principle to view positively the proposal concerning the permanent presence of international monitoring representatives at specialized facilities for the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles.

The USSR's constructive and principled approach to this problem was convincingly affirmed in the speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at his election meeting with working people. "To rid mankind of the possible use of chemical weapons is a very important task," Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed. "Talks on this issue have been going on for a long time now, but it seems that preconditions for solving the question are now beginning to emerge. What we are talking about is the complete and universal banning of the use of chemical weapons, and their development and production and the destruction of all stockpiles of such weapons. We advocate that the execution of such an agreement be effectively monitored and that such monitoring cover the entire process of destroying chemical weapons from start to finish."

Judging by the response in the foreign press and statements by politicians, many countries have seen these proposals as evidence of the fact that the world as a whole and Europe in particular can and must be freed of one of the most inhuman types of weapons. Such a development of events, however, is clearly not to the liking of U.S. militarist circles. It is not to the liking of those who, not satisfied with the hundreds of thousands of tons of toxic agents and the millions of chemical munitions that have been stockpiled, are embarking on a new generation of chemical weapons -- binary weapons -- in the hand of the Pentagon strategists. It is not accidental that General J. Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted recently while addressing the U.S. Congress that the U.S. military department "attaches great significance to the modernization of chemical ammunition arsenals." And while the administration is pushing through Congress plans for the manufacture of new chemical ammunition, the Pentagon is already proceeding at full speed with preparations for putting them into service. The foreign press has reported that the U.S. Armed Forces have been assigned the task of being prepared for "the rapid use of chemical weapons" by 1985, while the Air Force and the Navy "must by 1990 complete the development of new systems for the delivery of binary chemical weapons to their targets." Funds have already been appropriated for the construction of new storage facilities on FRG territory for the planned deployment of binary ammunition.

Judging by Gen Vessey's statement, the Pentagon has no intention of renouncing these plans or its hopes of attaining superiority over the USSR through chemical weapons.

The initiatives of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are such that it is difficult to attack them openly while simultaneously claiming that the main goal of U.S. policy on this issue is to destroy chemical weapons. You see, the Soviet proposals are based on the principle of ensuring identical security for all signatories of a future convention without giving any unilateral advantages to anyone. This was why people in Washington, striving to cast doubts on the present USSR proposals, recalled the ancient fabrication about "Soviet chemical weapons." The Russians, they claim, are not observing the treaties already in existence, so where is the guarantee that they will observe any future ones?

A cheap trick. The U.S. newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE wrote that the Soviet proposals have opened a door through which the West, should it so wish, can enter the decisive stage of talks to liquidate chemical weapons. Now, however, it can be seen that some people in Washington are striving to hide, metaphorically speaking, this "door" from the eyes of the world public behind a toxic smokescreen of anti-Soviet fabrications. The experience of the last 3 years has shown that the organizers of such campaigns will be unable to gain anything but disgrace.

PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISCUSSED

LD111738 Moscow in Polish to Poland 1400 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] In his pre-electoral speech, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated: The protection of humanity against the possibility of the use of chemical weapons is a very important task. It is a matter of a complete and universal ban on the use of chemical weapons, on work on such weapons, and on their production, as well as of the destruction of all stockpiles of such weapons. We state our support for effective controls on the implementation of such an agreement, and for such controls to encompass the whole process of eliminating chemical weapons from beginning to end. A Radio Moscow commentator writes on this subject:

The constructive approach and the good will of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries regarding the question of the elimination of chemical weapons is of particular significance for the fate of the world. Particularly at the present time, in conditions in which through the fault of the U.S. Administration the situation in the international arena has been exacerbated, the enormous threat posed to humanity -- namely the threat of chemical warfare -- is emerging with increasing clarity.

At present, the Pentagon has at its disposal the largest arsenal of chemical weapons in the world -- close to 150,000 metric tonnes. This is over 3 million units of chemical ammunition, bombs, missiles, mines and rockets. But to the American strategists, even this is but little. A high-ranking American military figure, General John Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaking recently at the U.S. Congress, emphatically declared that a great deal of attention will continue to be devoted to the issue of modernizing chemical weapons. This refers to the Pentagon-initiated chemical rearmament program. The cost of this program amounts to $10 billion. It is based on the production of a new generation of binary chemical weapons. This will place a further 3 million of the most up-to-date chemical armaments at the disposal of the American strategists. It is also well known where the Pentagon intends to employ its barbarous weapon: the European Continent, where a significant portion of the American chemical arsenal is already stored. The quantities of toxic substances assembled by the Americans in the FRG and Great Britain are quite sufficient to destroy all living things in Europe many times over.

Yet the Pentagon is building another five magazines for binary chemical weapons. It is also planned to introduce this weapon into Great Britain, Italy, and Turkey. Even in peace-time, the silent death to be stored in these magazines will pose an enormous threat to millions of inhabitants of Western Europe. American military specialists are forced to concede that annually over 1,000 toxic substance leaks occur in the chemical storehouses of the American Army. It is not difficult to imagine the consequences should such a leak occur in one of the densely-populated regions of Western Europe. War involving chemical weapons would in its turn mean the annihilation of European civilization.

But the chemical danger to the world and to Europe can and should be eliminated. Such is the principled approach to this problem by the Soviet Union and its allies. There is one single way to achieve this: through the conclusion of a convention on the universal and total prohibition of chemical weapons and on the elimination of their stockpiles. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have been fighting for just this for some time now. With the aim of resolving this problem of world significance, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have recently advanced a series of important new initiatives. For instance, the Warsaw Pact states have proposed talks on ridding of Europe of chemical weapons to the NATO states. A detailed list of undertakings to be made by all the participants in a possible agreement has been put forward. In making their proposals to restrict the agreement to the European framework, the socialist countries are following the assumption that it would be easier and quicker to agree to and implement these steps in relation to a single continent than it would be on the world scale. At the same time, one cannot overlook the fact that at present Europe is the most likely to become the theater of chemical warfare.

The implementation of the socialist countries' proposals should also contribute to a global solution to the problem. This is why, in the course of the plenary session of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, the text of the Warsaw Pact proposals was disseminated. Aiming at finally preparing the way for the conclusion of a convention on prohibiting chemical weapons, the Soviet Union recently came forward with additional proposals on the form of effective verification of the implementation of such a convention. Bearing in mind the stance of (?its) partners, the Soviet Union has declared its readiness for an essentially positive consideration of the issue of a permanent presence of representatives of international verification [kontrol] in specialized buildings set aside for the destruction of chemical arms stockpiles.

The American newspaper the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE has written that the new Soviet proposals open a door through which the West will be able to step into a new stage of negotiations on the banning of chemical weapons, should it so desire. The ball is now in the West's court. The existence of good will and readiness to approach the problem constructively are assuming particular importance. After all, as Konstantin Chernenko stated, the elimination of chemical weapons is an issue which, if agreed on, could mark the beginning of a genuine breakthrough in American-Soviet relations and of a turn in the entire international situation.

BLOC PEACE PROPOSALS, LEBANESE SITUATION EYED

PM131138 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[Untitled "International Review" by Sergey Vishnevskiy]

[Text] Safeguarding Peace as the Most Prized Possession

In these spring days the land of the soviets is impressively demonstrating to mankind its inexhaustible vital strength, the undoubted advantages of developed socialism, and its lofty humanism. The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet elections graphically demonstrated the indestructible unity of our party and people and the cohesion of the party's ranks.

"The main manifestation of this unity," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, notes, "is the firm determination not only to advance along our projected course but also to develop it creatively and boldly. Those are the Leninist traditions of our party, that is the point of continuity in politics."

Principled consistency and continuity and a creative approach toward topical problems are being confirmed with new force by the domestic policy and international policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. Loyalty to Lenin's foreign policy course was graphically expressed in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech to voters. Numerous politicians and observers are pointing to the profoundly realistic nature of the assessments and conclusions it contains.

In contrast to the Western leaders, who are trying to lull the world public's vigilance with misleading expatiations about how nothing special or dangerous is happening in the world arena, the Soviet leadership tells the grim truth about the increased threat to world peace which has arisen as a result of the sharp activation of the policy of the most aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism. The enhanced danger of war prompts us to be concerned for the adequate security of our country and of our friends and allies. The CPSU and the Soviet state see their paramount duty in ensuring the motherland's reliable defense.

At the same time it is precisely the complexity of the situation which obliges us to double and treble our efforts in pursuing a policy of peace and international security.

This time too the Western oracles have made fools of themselves by predicting recently some kind of "hiatus" in the USSR's foreign policy activity. Colombia University professor (S. Byaler), one of Sovietology's "leading lights," meaningfully predicted in THE WASHINGTON POST: "Moscow is taking a respite, it is emphasizing some kind of retreat from active politics, and is displaying a relatively passive approach toward political life in the international arena." Officials in Washington and other NATO capitals have been fueling similar stories. The luckless oracles have blundered.

The detailed program of new, enterprising proposals on urgent problems of war and peace set forth in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech convincingly attests to the high degree of activeness and dynamism of the USSR's foreign policy. The Soviet peace offensive is continuing on all the main salients.

Key importance for peace and the peoples' security attaches to curbing the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union resolutely advocates banning and destroying all types of weapons of this kind. In the estimation of many foreign commentators, the USSR's initiatives on this score are specific, constructive, and feasible. They are concentrated on the most urgent, key issues.

Our country proposes losing no time in taking the first step toward freeing Europe from nuclear weapons -- both medium-range and tactical. The correct path toward achieving a mutually acceptable accord on limiting and reducing medium-range nuclear weapons and strategic arms is the elimination of the obstacles created by the deployment of the U.S. missiles in Europe.

The Soviet Union is in favor of practical solutions for specific topical questions -- questions like the total prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, a mutual freeze on nuclear potentials, the renunciation of the militarization of space, and a ban on chemical weapons.

The USSR's innovatory proposal on codifying relations between powers with nuclear weapons generated a particularly widespread response among political public circles [as published] in many countries. "Guided by the fact that the vital interests of all mankind and state leaders' responsibility to present and future generations require that relations between these powers be subordinated to specific norms, K.U. Chernenko formulated in his speech a package of these norms according with the aspirations of the peoples of the whole world," THE TIMES OF INDIA writes.

These norms would include specific undertakings by the nuclear powers: to view the prevention of nuclear war as the main aim of their foreign policy; to renounce war propaganda; to undertake not to use nuclear weapons; in no circumstances to use these weapons against nonnuclear countries with no such weapons on their territory; to prevent their proliferation in any form; gradually, on the basis of the principle of identical security, to seek to reduce nuclear arms right up to their total elimination.

The Soviet Union is setting a good example by placing these principles at the basis of its policy. Our country is ready at any time to agree with other nuclear powers on jointly recognizing norms of this kind and making them binding. This accord would be a serious obstacle preventing the preparation of nuclear missile war. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and statesmen of other countries have assessed the Soviet initiative highly.

The Warsaw Pact states' 5 March proposal to the NATO members to begin talks as soon as possible on not increasing and on reducing military expenditure was a specific new manifestation of the socialist countries' active peacemaking. The rapid swelling of military budgets is a very dangerous tendency in international life which spurs on material preparations for war. In the estimation of U.S. experts, world military expenditure has been increasing since 1978 at an average of 4 percent a year, totaling $663 billion last year.

It is no secret that it is Washington which is the initiator of the rapid surge in military appropriations. The Pentagon is now persistently pushing through the U.S. Congress its $313 billion budget for fiscal 1985, which is 100-150 percent more than it was 3-4 years ago. And by the end of the decade the militarists plan to increase this budget to $465 billion.

The moloch of war is taking colossal resources necessary for peaceful socioeconomic purposes. (R. Penner), director of the Congressional Budget Office, admits that the Pentagon's expenditures "are a heavy burden on the economy."

Under the conditions of mounting international tension the reduction of the military expenditure feeding the arms race is particularly topical. The Warsaw Pact states' new document develops these states' initiatives put forward 5 January and 28 June 1st year and supplements them with detailed, constructive proposals making it possible to overcome the difficulties which have arisen during the exmaination of the problem. This initiative, while keeping previous ones in force, the Paris newspaper LE MONDE notes, "enriches them with new ideas."

To judge by observers' reports from NATO headquarters, socialist diplomacy's initiative has caused nervousness and confusion among the Atlanticists. They would like to reject it from the outset, putting out standard stories about the "difficulties of verifying" a possible accord and so forth. However, a REUTER correspondent reports from Brussels that NATO officials cannot make up their minds to give "a completely negative reply." They are obviously afraid of a stormy reaction from the peace-loving public which is demanding an end to the orgy of military expenditure. For the time being they are employing delaying tactics...

The peace-loving proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and the fraternal countries are more timely than ever. The latest reports from the West confirm that the militarist preparations of the United States and the other NATO countries are continuing at full speed. General Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander Europe, shamelessly stated recently: "It is exceptionally important to show the Soviet Union that NATO is fully determined to deploy all 572 cruise and Pershing II missiles." U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz confirms that he "can see no grounds for altering the schedule" for the deployment of the U.S. missiles in Europe. This very sinister schedule is being met. This month it is planned to set about reequipping with Pershing II missiles a second battery in the FRG in the Schwaebisch Gmuend region and to finish bringing the first cruise missiles in Comiso, Sicily, into a state of combat readiness. In March the first group of U.S. servicemen will arrive in Belgium to prepare for the possible deployment of 48 cruise missiles. Next month it is planned to begin the deployment of the second consignment of these missiles at Greenham Common, Britain. Meanwhile, new types of first-strike nuclear missiles are being tested in the United States and Canada. The thunder of the latest provocative air and sea maneuvers, "Alder Forest-84" and "Teamwork-84," is emanating from the NATO European zone.

But the more the militarists fuel the tension, the more active the forces of man's self-preservation become. The wide scale of the antiwar movement can be observed everywhere. People of good will are supporting the appeal from Moscow: to safeguard peace as the most prized possession.

When They Lose Their Sense of Reality

I was in the United States when Washington's "big stick" was brought down on tiny Grenada. The Pentagon's victorious communiques kindled the interventionist sentiments of the chauvinist section of the population. The jingo-patriots recommended out loud that the experience of the "Grenada operation" be used in other parts of the world -- from the Caribbean to the Near East. The White House gave a free hand to the Marine command in Lebanon and the naval task force looming off the coast. Hundreds of Lebanese have fallen victim to U.S. shells, bombs, and missiles. To the roar of cannon, Washington diplomacy has tried to perpetuate the enslavement of the long-suffering country and turn its territory into one more bridgehead of aggression against the Arab national liberation movement.

However, the massive use of military force has failed to bring the interventionists their desired results. The West European contingents of the "Multinational Force" which provided a cover for the U.S.-Israeli occupation have been evacuated from Lebanon. The U.S. Marines have been obliged to "redeploy" to ships. And a terse report came in from Beirut recently on a Lebanese Government decision: "The Cabinet has decided to abrogate the unratified agreement and consider it null." This referred to the annulment of the "peace agreement" with Israel foisted on Lebanon by the United States 17 May last year. With the aid of this crushing agreement it intended to legalize the Zionist occupation of the south of the country. Now it is time to consign the agreement's 24 pages to the U.S. national archives as a relic of one more foreign policy fiasco.

The rejection of the unequal accord is approved by all political groupings in Lebanon except for some extreme right-wing Christians. This action is being welcomed throughout the Arab world.

The news from Beirut has caused frank shock on the banks of the Potomac. Only C. Weinberger, the Pentagon's chief, who is made of iron and concrete, alleges that "the United States has not lost its prestige in Lebanon." Other high-ranking officials are not concealing their distress.

Surely everyone knows that it was the gamble on military force so characteristic of the present U.S. Administration which was the main reason for the setbacks to its course in the Near East? NEWSWEEK comes close to the truth when it writes that the "humiliating defeat" suffered by Washington in Lebanon "is possibly the worst catastrophe in U.S. foreign policy since the Iranian crisis and has its roots in strategic blunders." "Since Israel invaded Lebanon," the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI notes, "all U.S. efforts in Lebanon have failed. The U.S. approach to the Lebanon problem has proved utterly unrealistic."

Only by closing one's eyes to present-day realities is it possible to reckon that the "big stick" could crush the rebuff of the freedom-loving peoples to Washington's imperial ambitions. By shelling the Arab patriots from the battleship "New Jersey" and using carrier-based aircraft to bombard cities and settlements, the strangers from across the ocean have once more revealed their faces as aggressors and stiflers of freedom and caused mounting alienation even among the region's conservative regimes.

However obvious the background to the defeats of interventionism, the transatlantic strategists are utterly reluctant to draw sober conclusions from the stern lessons life is teaching them. With a persistence worthy of better application, the White House is asserting that "long-term U.S. plans in Lebanon remain the same." And a State Department spokesman is publicly threatening to use artillery and carrier-based aircraft to shell Lebanese territory. The Israeli extremists are following their boss, continuing their armed onslaughts on Lebanese soil. Moreover, according to the London TIMES they are planning to step up the bombing of their northern neighbor's territory.

Like the Bourbons, the interventionists have forgotten nothing and learned nothing. As long as they fail to heed the voice of reason it is logical to expect that the profound crisis of U.S. policy in the Near East will continue and bring many unpleasant surprises for its architects.

It is time to understand that strong-arm methods will not lead the matter of a Near East settlement out of the deadlock in which it has been placed by the United States and its Israeli clients. A way out can only be found on the path of a just political settlement unfailingly taking into account the interests of all sides. It is just such a realistic solution which the Soviet Union urges.

PRAVDA CHIEF EDITOR ADDRESSES STOCKHOLM DIALOGUE

LD131039 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0104 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] The international conference of dialogue on problems of security and disarmament in Europe is continuing in Stockholm. Afanasyev, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Links with Peace-Loving Forces and editor in chief of PRAVDA, drew delegates' attention to the wide-ranging initiatives put forward at the Stockholm forum by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The realization of these proposals is of great importance for strengthening security and the atmosphere of confidence on European soil, which has been seriously undermined by the deployment of the new American medium-range nuclear missiles Comrade Afanasyev underlined.

SECURITY 'CONFERENCE-DIALOGUE' ENDS IN STOCKHOLM

LD131831 Moscow TASS in English 1639 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm March 14 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov reports: An international conference-dialogue on the problems of security and disarmament in Europe has ended here. The meeting, sponsored by the International Forum for Liaison Between Peace-Loving Forces, was attended by more than 100 representatives of various political parties, trade union and relgious organizations and mass anti-war movements from 37 countries.

They examined ways of further increasing the activity of political parties and anti-war movements that campaign for peace, relaxation of international tension and disarmament and act to facilitate the successful work of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

The meeting's final session studied a wide range of questions related to the struggle for peace, including various initiatives, rallies, demonstrations and other actions which will be held in the countries whose representatives have held a dialogue in the Swedish capital.

The conference-dialogue adopted an appeal to the delegates to the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and to the peoples of the world, stressing that the successful completion of the Stockholm conference would be of tremendous significance to strengthening universal peace.

The appeal said that to achieve genuine trust in Europe it was essential to make certain that the Stockholm conference would not be confined to discussing questions of a military-technical character (?but would consider) concrete measures that are expected from it by the people. These measures include first of all an immediate freezing of nuclear arsenals, the renunciation of first use of nuclear weapons, the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, and agreement to renounce use of armed force completely.

U.S., EUROPEAN NATO STRATEGY, AMBITIONS STUDIED

PM131418 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 Second Edition p 3

[Colonel M. Ponomarev "Military-Political Review": "At Washington's Bidding]

[Text] The Soviet Union has repeatedly warned that the siting of U.S. Pershing II and long-range cruise missiles on the territory of a number of West European countries will inevitably mean those countries' further subjection to Washington and will turn them into the hostages of transatlantic nuclear strategy. That is what has happened. West Europe's security has been sacrificed to U.S. imperial ambitions.

In previous years too, leading U.S. political and military figures paid scant regard to the interests of their West European partners in the North Atlantic bloc and imposed their will on them. And now, under the conditions of the sharp galvanization of the policy of the most aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism -- the policy of overt militarism and claims to world domination -- Washington's impudence toward its own allies is exceeding all limits. Apparently some people across the ocean are quite unwilling to accept the fact that it is not only the masses in their millions in the West European countries but also a number of leading figures and influential political parties in these countries who do not approve of the U.S. Administration's adventures.

All this is causing acute dissatisfaction across the ocean. U.S. Under Secretary of State L. Eagleburger recently leveled a public accusation that the West Europeans' position is "becoming increasingly limited" and is "tallying less and less with U.S. policy." And R. Burt, another State Department figure, gave the partners a real reprimand when he stated peremptorily that "our countries' security is indivisible and should be approached on a global basis," in other words, on the basis on unconditional subordination to Washington's orders.

A sensational article in TIME magazine by former U.S. Secretary of State H. Kissinger has been rated by observers as an intensive attempt to galvanize the NATO bloc, to strengthen so-called "Atlantic solidarity," and to subordinate West Europe even more solidly to Washington's adventurist course. This apologist of U.S. imperialism assails the antiwar movement in Europe and the West European countries' desire to dissociate themselves from the White House's present course in the international arena and its military policy. At the same time he sets out a whole program of organizational and military-strategic measures for "restoring NATO's viability" or, to put it more simply, the bloc members' continued meek subordination to Washington's diktat.

Putting it briefly, on the political level this program envisages the reaffirmation of America's leading role in the North Atlantic bloc and the elaboration of a common stance by the Western countries which meets Washington's interests. And in the military sphere Kissinger's proposals will mean ultimately West Europe's involvement in a new round of the arms race by placing on it the "main responsibility" for NATO's "non-nuclear defense." Let the West Europeans pay up and acquire thousands of new tanks, aircraft, artillery pieces, and other armaments. As for the United States it will continue to call the tune by determining the bloc's nuclear strategy. The strategy's "distinguishing feature," as General B. Rogers, supreme commander of the NATO allied armed forces in Europe, stated recently to the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, "is a readiness to be first to use nuclear weapons." And the first nuclear strike against the USSR and the other socialist countries is being entrusted primarily to the new U.S. missiles being deployed in West Europe.

And since the first of these missiles have been installed and brought into readiness, the White House argument runs, the task of reducing the West Europeans to the role of Washington's submissive hostages has already been basically resolved and there is no need to treat them gently.

America's current approach to its own partners and allies, as to West European problems as a whole, was graphically demonstrated during FRG Chancellor H. Kohl's recent visit to the U.S. capital. The preparation for the visit was accompanied by a great ballyhoo. Bonn was gambling on the fact that Washington considers Kohl (not without justification, let us note) one of the most loyal allies. Thus he was also entrusted with the task of expounding to the leaders of the Washington administration the West European viewpoint on the problems of East-West relations and the situation in Central American and the Near East and of trying to resolve the acute disagreements in the trade and economic sphere. According to information in THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, the chancellor's intention was to recommend that the Washington partners in the talks should also make certain "adjustments" in their stance in the nuclear arms control sphere.

However, what actually happened? Washington rated highly the FRG's leading role in the matter of the deployment of the U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles in West Europe. The public was also given a demonstration of the "unity" between the United States and the FRG on the other questions under discussion. In essence H. Kohl was forced to listen to what was said and to agree meekly. After expressing hypocritical "satisfaction" at the outcome of the talks with President R. Reagan, Secretary of State G. Shultz, and other U.S. officials, he stated at the final press conference, undoubtedly with Washington's approval, that West Germany is ready to fully "implement NATO's 'two-track decision'" on the siting of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe.

Assessing the results of H. Kohl's visit, even the extreme right-wing BILD ZEITUNG was forced to remark that "in essence the chancellor achieved nothing. Instead of new proposals in the disarmament sphere the U.S. President announced an increase in the nuclear and 'conventional' deterrents." The U.S. promises that "real talks with the Russians" on nuclear arms limitation would begin after the Pershing and cruise missiles were installed proved to be a deliberate deception. Furthermore the complete unreality of these "promises" was clear from the very outset and the Soviet Union repeatedly warned about this. The USSR cannot agree to talks when the other side intends to "conduct dialogue" "from a position of strength." As Comrade K.U. Chernenko has pointed out, we confirm our "readiness for talks, but honest talks based on equality and identical security."

As for the United States, its real attitude to talks with the Soviet Union was recently restated by Pentagon chief C. Weinberger. Addressing a press conference televised in Europe, he confirmed that the United States will continue to site its first-strike nuclear missiles on the territory of a number of NATO countries. And yet it was these selfsame actions by Washington which led to the breakdown of the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva. C. Weinberger ruled out any initiatives from the United States which would make it possible to resume them. Instead he campaigned for the further galvanisation of the North Atlantic bloc's militarist preparations and stated that the countries belonging to it "should maintain the maximum might in Europe as well as the maximum forces to increase that might."

All this enabled the West German Communist newspaper UNSERE ZEIT to write with full justification when assessing the results of H. Kohl's overseas trip that the "FRG's partnership with the United States is suicidal, causes the country tremendous harm, and is contrary to its national interests." It is also contrary to the other NATO countries' interests. This realization is becoming increasingly clear in West Europe. But varying conclusions are being drawn. Whereas the progressive forces and realistically minded politicians in the West European countries are increasingly actively opposing the subordination to U.S. diktat, the siting of first-strike nuclear missiles, and the arms race, certain circles are seeking what is being called Europe's "military independence."

Thus reports have been appearing recently about attempts being made to return to the plans for the creation of a "European defense community" or "combined West European Army," plans which seemed to have died 30 years ago. It is thought that there will be a meeting in Rome of the defense ministers of the countries of the Western European Union (WEU) -- Britain, France, Italy, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg -- where this question will be resolved. What is more, the WEU countries' military integration will be implemented within the framework of that selfsame aggressive NATO bloc.

It is no wonder that the United States has no objections to this idea. It falls entirely into the framework of Washington's global hegemonist policy. The foundations of this policy were again set out by President R. Reagan in an extensive article published in London's THE TIMES devoted to NATO's 35th anniversary which occurs in April. The main theme of this article is the need for a further buildup of NATO's "impressive military potential" and appeals for the "political cohesion" of the West concealed behind fabrications about the "Soviet military threat." We have just seen how Washington is striving for this "cohesion" by the example of the Washington leaders' treatment of one of their closest allies -- the high-ranking visitor from the FRG. The bloc's military might is also to be stepped up by increasing the member countries' military spending, by the arms race that is gathering pace all the time, and by wide-scale military maneuvers.

The scale of the militarist preparations in the NATO countries is quite well known. Nevertheless, some examples should be cited. Thus Britain is preparing to replace its Polaris missiles installed on nuclear-powered submarines with Trident II missiles. Whereas the current Polaris missiles can hit 64 targets, the MIRVed Trident missiles can be aimed at 900 targets simultaneously.

Here is another fact. Vast areas of the North Atlantic, the Norwegian sea, and northern Norway have been used as the arena for the Avalanche Express and Team Work exercises, involving nine NATO countries, the largest joint military maneuvers ever held here. Some 40,000 servicemen, 150 warships, and 300 aircraft and helicopters have begun operations in them. Aggressive actions involving ground forces, the air force, and naval forces are being rehearsed on NATO's northern flank in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet border.

These facts show yet again that the North Atlantic bloc countries are becoming increasingly dependent politically and militarily on the United States, which, of course, is fundamentally contrary to the interests of the peoples in these countries. These interests are wholly met by the USSR's peace-loving initiatives and the Soviet Union's clearly expressed readiness to steer the development of events toward the consolidation of peace, the limitation of the arms race, and the development of international cooperation.

OAU CRITICISM OF RSA, U.S. BACKING APPLAUDED

PM121400 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion": "Maneuvers Cannot Distract One From the Crux of the Matter"]

[Text] The latest session of the OAU Council of Ministers has just finished work in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. Africa attached great significance to it, and this, specifically, is why. Although as a result of the neocolonialist policy of the Republic of South African [RSA] regime backed by the U.S. Administration the situation in the south of Africa remains volatile, Pretoria and Washington have recently also been resorting to means of political maneuvering. In an attempt to show "diplomatic activeness" they are striving to assure Africans of some kind of "new approach by the RSA to its relations with neighboring states and show that under certain conditions the South African racists are allegedly prepared to renounce military force and arrange peaceful cooperation with them.

Needless to say, both Pretoria and Washington are using these maneuvers to pursue above all their own narrowly mercenary objectives. The RSA, for instance, urgently needs to overcome the political and economic boycott and its isolation among the African countries. And Washington after Grenada and Lebanon and on the eve of the presidential elections needs to show itself somewhere as "peace-loving" and attract voters to Reagan's side and, since it is a question of Africa, specifically black voters. Hence the significance that the African peoples attached to the OAU Council of Ministers session held in Addis Ababa. In short the question boils down to whether the South African racists and their U.S. patrons will succeed with the help of the current maneuvers in fooling the Africans and distracting them from the crux of the matter.

Now, on familiarization with the results of the African leaders' work in Addis Ababa, it can be said with confidence that no, they did not succeed. Among the string of important resolutions on the political and economic situation on the continent adopted at the session, attention is drawn, for instance, to the one in which the OAU expresses its extreme concern that the racist RSA regime is continuing to wage an undeclared war against the region's independent states.

It rightly stresses that this policy being conducted by Pretoria represents a serious threat to peace and security in Africa and throughout the world. Angry protest among African leaders is also provoked by the fact that the South African racists are recruiting and financing armed gangs which are operating against the legal governments of Angola, Mozambique, and Lesotho. After sharply condemning the occupation of part of Angola by RSA troops, the Addis Ababa session demanded their immediate withdrawal. As the resolution noted, the OAU members fully supported the courageous struggle of the peoples of the "frontline" states and Lesotho against the policy of blackmail and intimidation being pursued by Pretoria.

The African leaders gathered in Addis Ababa adopted a no less resolute stance on the Namibian question, which is a fundamental one in the south African problem. The OAU Council of Ministers session stated its total support for the Namibian people's struggle for independence which, as is well known, they have been conducting for many years under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), and advocated the speediest implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. This statement assumes even greater significance because one of the objectives of the current "diplomatic activeness" of the RSA racists amounts to buying time and postponing granting independence to Namibia as required by the aforesaid resolution 435.

Along with Pretoria's contiuned attempts to link the resolution of this question with the problem of the presence of Cuban internationalists on Angolan territory, the RSA racists are simultaneously striving to impose a so-called "internal settlement" on Namibia, turning it into a kind of Bantustan. In the course of its military operations against SWAPO the South African regime is making wide use of "death squads" which use methods borrowed from the arsenal of the SS. Detachments of cutthroats kill peaceful inhabitants, burn and pillage their property, and destroy the Namibian people's cultural assets. Under these conditions can one in any way seriously talk about the sincerity of the RSA regime's intentions? After comprehensively examining the southern African problem, the OAU members in one of the resolutions approved in Addis Ababa expressed their full solidarity with the RSA people's armed struggle to eliminate the apartheld regime in the country. They rightly stressed that the Pretoria racists' so-called "constitutional reforms" are aimed purely at perpetuating the exploitation of the RSA's African population and the white minority's domination of it. No little importance is also attached to the fact noted in the same document that the RSA's racist regime can continue to puruse its inhuman apartheid policy within the country and a terrorist course in relation to neighboring independent countries since it enjoys the all-around support of a number of Western states, above all the United States, Britain, and also Israel.

As the development of the situation shows, the policy of the present U.S. Administration, which has established relations of "constructive cooperation" with the Pretoria regime, is coming in for particular condemnation and resolute protest here. This sounds exactly like the "strategic cooperation" existing between Washington and Israel, does it not? Strictly speaking, the essence of the policy being pursued by the United States-RSA double act in southern Africa is the same as the course of the "strategic allies" Washington and Tel Aviv in the Near East. The South African racists, like the Israeli rulers, commit aggression, on the back of which the U.S. Administration tries to play the part of "peacemaker." The only difference is that the battleship New Jersey's large-caliber guns are not as yet trained on Angola and Mozambique.

U.S. SEEN TRYING TO DOMINATE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

LD130928 Moscow TASS in English 0842 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] New York March 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Baybakov reports:

The establishment of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean is vital to all the coastal and mainland states in that region, Arthur De Silva (Sri Lanka), chairman of the U.N. Special Committee on the Indian Ocean, said at the committee's session which opened here. He noted that the session had begun under the keynote of the non-aligned countries' resolve to remove obstacles to the convocation of a conference on that issue.

The consistent stand of the developing countries, which did a good deal to have the conference convened, is highly appreciated at the United Nations. The Soviet Union's backing of the non-aligned countries' proposal to establish a peace zone in the Indian Ocean, reiterated at a meeting of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee on March 1, evoked a broad positive response here.

The United States, however, is hewing to a diametrically opposite stand as it is trying to establish its military and political dominance in the region, stepping up war preparations in the Indian Ocean and escalating tension there. U.S imperialism has trained ship artillery guns and nuclear-tipped missiles deployed at the Diego Garcia military base at the countries of the region in which roughly one-third of the world population live. Making preparations for armed acts of intervention in the region, Washington sets aside billions of dollars to build new bases in the region and to modernise the existing ones, these bases being assigned the role of transit stations for the police-like "Rapid Deployment Force."

At the very first meeting of the session U.S. delegate H. Sorsano put forward a number of patently unacceptable conditions in a bid to stymie the work of the committee. In the teeth [as received] of commonly known facts, he futilely tried to hold the Soviet Union responsible for creating tension in that part of the world. Meanwhile, it is Washington that refuses to continue the Soviet-U.S. talks on restricting military activity in the Indian Ocean.

Participants in the session stressed that the task of all the peace forces was to put up a barrier in the way of the military and political strategy of U.S. imperialism in the Indian Ocean zone, a strategy that poses a threat to security and peace in the region.

COMPARISON OF PRAVDA ON GROMYKO-HARTMAN TALK

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 13 March carries in its First Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the talk between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Arthur Hartman. The PRAVDA TASS report, entitled "Reception of Ambassador," has been compared with the TASS report published in the 12 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page A 1, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, line three reads in PRAVDA: ...foreign minister, 11 March received U.S. Ambassador... (inserting date)

Pragraph two, line six reads in PRAVDA: ...of measures whose implementation could initiate a constructive breakthrough [perelom] in relations between... (rewording for clarity, adding Russian)

VIEWS AIRED ON U.S. HIGH TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTIONS

LD110025 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Vitaliy Gan commentary]

[Text] Formulating the U.S. approach to trade with the Soviet Union, one of the Truman administration officials, Mr Baruch, once said that everything has its potential military significance, except perhaps chewing gum. It's hard to say what is more in this statement: cynicism or foolishness. Nevertheless, the trade boycott sponsored by the Truman government as part of the cold war against the Soviet Union didn't stop the economic growth of this country, which achieved impressive progress on its own.

It's not by chance that Mr Baruch's statement has sprung to mind again. It looks as if the current American Administration is not drawing proper conclusions from the past lessons. Just as decades ago Washington is still nourishing the hope to win the economic war against the Soviet Union. One evidence of this is the bill to tighten up screws in trade between East and West approved by the U.S. Senate a few days ago. Its sponsors, boldly defying historic experience, insist on further restricting the export of high technology and other products to the socialist countries. Besides, the bill envisages stiffer penalties for U.S. companies which (?dare) to breach the strict bans. There is every indication that the Pentagon had a hand in drafting the bill. For a long time now it's been trying hard to rise to the dominant position of teaching American businessmen how they should trade and what they should sell.

According to the draft law, the Pentagon will have the authority to ban arbitrarily the export of civilian production items to the East. If you recall, the American Defense Department in its time listed even toilet paper among so-called strategic items. So we can imagine what consequences the Pentagon's overall control of trade will lead to.

Another outburst of discrimination in trade with the socialist countries quite obviously runs counter to the interests of American businessmen who, unlike the Washington administration, show much more sagacity and pragmatism. They are well aware that every prohibited trade deal with the Soviet Union is a solid gain for foreign competitors, a loss of millions in profit and of trust and reputation. Hardly anyone will dare to challenge the view of the president of the Republic Bank in Texas, Mr Berry, who said in an interview with the DALLAS MORNING NEWS recently that bans on trade with the USSR hit hard above all on American firms. And vice president of the Dresser Industries, Mr Luter, for his part said: If we don't trade with the USSR, others will do. The best proof of these claims is the total failure of attempts to disrupt the construction of the gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe.

Someone has aptly remarked that when nations trade, guns are silent. By mounting its struggle against the socialist countries Washington, as it appears, is not pleased with such a state of affairs and prefers confrontation and tension. But the economic war against the USSR and its allies has always been futile and will always be such. It's all the more without prospect now when the socialist community's economic potential has grown immeasurably. So U.S. policy boomerangs again.

LATEST CRUISE MISSILE TEST IN CALIFORNIA NOTED

LD122248 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1850 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The program directed at attaining U.S. military superiority is being implemented at stepped up rates. The latest test of the Tomahawk cruise missile took place from the cruiser USS (?Biddle) off the sourthern coast of California. This June, the Pentagon plans to equip U.S. Navy ships and submarines in the Pacific with these first-strike missiles, which carry nuclear warheads.

CANADIANS PROTEST CRUISE MISSILE TESTS

LD121903 Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS news Analyst Vladimir Matyash writes:

Disregarding the opinion of the Canadian and world public the United States has held the test of cruise missiles over the territory of Canadian Province Alberta. The missiles were suspended to a "B-52" strategic bomber that took off from a U.S. air base in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Reporting this, the ASSOCIATED PRESS points out that the Canadian Federal Court turned down the demands of a broad coalition of Canadian public organizations to ban the holding in Alberta of the Pentagon's dangerous experiments with cruise missiles which are first strike weapons and capable of carrying nuclear charge.

Fearing mass protests, the command of the Canadian military base in Cold Lake over which the path of the U.S. bomber was passing put on a high alert Army units with a total numerical strength of 6,000. Patrol helicopters were in the air. But these actions of the Canadian authorities have not intimidated the Canadian peace fighters. More than 100 representatives of public organizations and activists of the anti-war movement blocked the road to the Cold Lake base in protest against Canada's being turned into one of the Pentagon's ranges.

The United States has long been trying to turn Canada's territory into its nuclear range. This is seen from the fact that Washington presented to the Canadian Government a list of new types of armaments which the U.S. military would like to test in Canada. The Canadian press agency reports with a reference to a spokesman of the Canadian Ministry of National Defence that the list was submitted a fortnight ago. It is no secret that back in February 1983 the Reagan administration imposed on Ottawa an agreement on military cooperation under which the Pentagon has been given an opportunity to test new types of armaments on the Canadian territory.

The Pentagon chose Canada's territory for a range to test cruise missiles for the reason that it resembles vast areas of Soviet Siberia. This might be so. But in this connection the organisers of the tests should bear in mind that the Canadian and the U.S. territory might be put in a similar situation if the maniacs in Washington decide to unleash nuclear war.

It is easy to see that the tests of cruise missiles are fraught with dangerous consequences for Canada and for the cause of peace as a whole.

As to the Soviet Union, our stand is that the curbing of the nuclear arms race and the non-proliferation of nuclear armaments are of cardinal significance for peace and security of peoples. Delivering recently a speech at the election meeting in Moscow, Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko said: "We have been and remain in favour of banning and destruction of all types of nuclear weapons. Score [as received] have long since been submitted to the United Nations and the Geneva committee on disarmament but their discussion is being blocked by the United States and its allies."

U.S. NOT TO SIGN LAW OF SEA CONVENTION

LD121301 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 -- TASS commentator Igor Makurin writes:

Washington has demonstrated for yet another time that it is the chief opponent of equitable and mutually beneficial international cooperation in various spheres of man's activity. This conclusion readily prompts itself if one is to read an article by James Malone, assistant secretary of state and special representative of the U.S. President for the U.N. conference on the Law of the Sea, which is published in the latest issue of the FOREIGN POLICY journal. He declares bluntly that the United States intends to continue acting on its own free will with respect to the use of the world ocean, as well as with respect to the Antarctic and outer space, and that the United States is not going to sign the Law of the Sea convention the work over which was carried out for over nine years. This convention, which regulates cooperation between states in the field of the use and development of the world ocean in the interests of all countries, has already been signed by over 120 states. This unanimity of the international community is interpreted by the high-ranking representative of the U.S. Administration as... a dictat of "the developing countries and the Soviet Union."

By demagogic contentions of this kind the Washington officialdom is unable to cover up its true intentions, namely, to satisfy the appetites of U.S. corporations that are working to gain the right for an uncontrolled extraction of minerals on the ocean floor and seabed in international waters.

A cause of the White House's particular irritation is the fact that the Law of the Sea convention proclaimed this natural wealth "mankind's common asset," whereas U.S. monopolies advocate the distribution of resources from their purely imperialistic position of strength. For the sake of attaining unilateral advantages and securing monopolies' super-profits, Washington is ready to go to undermining the accords reached by the world community.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries hold a consistent and constructive stand, and are strongly in favour of the accords already reached. This principled approach to world problems was confirmed anew in the speech by Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at his meeting with the electorate. He stressed that the vital interests of the whole of mankind, the responsibility of state leaders before the present and the succeeding generations call for relations between states to comply with definite norms. By refusing to put its signature under the convention and taking the course towards eroding its effectiveness by all available means, the White House acts contrary to the interests of a clear majority of nations.

Therefore, it is not surprising that this position of Washington meets with mounting condemnation in the world, the condemnation by all those who favour a policy of peace and equitable cooperation and oppose confrontation and diktat in international relations.

U.S. MILITARY EXPENDITURES HARM ORDINARY AMERICANS

LD120053 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; S. Iyezuitov commentary on "Documentary Pictures," with still shots of Pentagon, antiwar cartoon, missiles and aircraft, White House, people in line at soup kitchen]

[Excerpt] The dangerous course of the White House aimed at a further buildup of the arms race brings unheard-of profits to the U.S. military-industrial complex. Representatives of military concerns talk with great satisfaction about the 5-year program of rearming the United States announced by Reagan. Washington intends to spend over $2 trillion on its implementation. The newest strategic systems. Trident nuclear submarines, intercontinental missiles, B-1 and stealth bombers and cruise missiles are deployed. The production of neutron chemical and cosmic weapons is stepped up. The most profitable orders by the Pentagon go to the leading companies in the sphere of military technology production. They are Rockwell International, Martin Marietta, Boeing, General Electric, and others in turn, the colossal funds at the disposal of the military-industrial complex enable it to influence the government, to dictate its will, and to get its own people into the governmental institutions. The policy of the U.S. Administration, which is so advantageous to military concerns, strikes a serious blow to ordinary Americans' situation.

REAGAN RADIO ADDRESS CLAIMS ECONOMIC 'WONDERS'

LD111532 Moscow TASS in English 1456 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 11 TASS -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in his radio address, has made an attempt to convince the Americans that the U.S. Government has worked "wonders" in the economic field over the past three years.

Assessments made by officials in the present administration of their activity only remotely resemble, as a rule, the real state of affairs. The same happened this time. The U.S. economy, the White House chief claimed, is now stronger than one could have expected. According to Ronald Reagan, the employment record in the United States is now better than at any time in the country's history. Meanwhile a report drawn up by a group of prominent Democratic Party figures says that the current level of unemployment is higher than at any other post-war recession period, excluding only the 1974-1974 recession.

Reagan also asserted that all indicators for the second half of 1983 related to bank interest rates, which largely determine business activity, were positive. However, as the report by the Democrats stresses, they remain at too high a level to ensure an upswing.

On housing construction, Ronald Reagan claimed that it is at highest level over the past four years. He did not mention, however, that his administration slashed starting from 1981 by 45 percent the allocations for a programme to provide housing for low-income families and practically curtailed all programmes of new construction.

Praising the "achievements" of his administration, Reagan kept silent, however, on the budget deficit that threatens to top 200 billion dollars in the current fiscal year.

Despite facts, as the Democratic report notes, he stubbornly refuses to admit that his economic programme with tax rebates for the rich and the colossal buildup of the military potential results in a higher growth of federal spending compared with revenues to the Treasury.

The President said that his administration is leading the country from the grim days of hopelessness to the brilliant dawn of prospects and hope. His view will be hardly shared by the 37 million Americans who are living below the official poverty line or by the 44 million who are undernourished.

MONDALE-HART ELECTION STRUGGLE COMMENTED ON

LD092138 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 9 Mar 84

[From the "International Review" program, presented by political observer Viktor Mikheyev]

[Text] The U.S. election campaign, which began recently, is continuing. The Republican Party is putting forward one candidate -- Reagan, the current President. The second party is the Democratic Party. It is just as much a bourgeois party as the Republican Party -- it is simply a kind of competing firm. Five members of this party are putting themselves forward as candidates for the presidency. Until recently there were eight, but three have dropped out. The main struggle in the Democratic Party is now between former Vice President Mondale and Senator Hart. Mondale suffered defeats at caucuses in three states last week: New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, even though he spent 10 times more money on his campaign than Hart. Hart has spent about $400,000, while Mondale has spent $17 million thus far.

On several occasions Hart has called for a freeze on nuclear weapons. At the same time, he advocates an increase in the production of conventional, non-nuclear types of weaponry. Hart, who is now on your screens, has changed his views in recent years. At one time he was in favor of MX intercontinental missiles. Now he is against them. Hart proposes an increase in taxation as a way of reducing the budget deficit and military spending. On one occasion he said that he was prepared to cut the military budget by $100 billion. I remind you that next year's U.S. military budget is set at about $313 billion. Nevertheless, U.S. papers say that Hart is more conservative than Mondale. It is also well known that there has never been a single case in U.S. history of elected president carrying out all his election promises. We will have to wait to see what U.S. policy is like in a year's time. The only thing that is clear is that the evolution of forces in the world will play an ever increasing role, forcing the U.S. ruling circles to pay ever more heed to the wishes of the world's peoples.

'SUPER TUESDAY' IN U.S. PRIMARIES NOTED

LD132127 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Eduard Mnatsakanov]

[Text] Today is called Super Tuesday in America because of Democratic primaries in nine states. There are no results yet, nor are there likely to be today, considering the time difference. The press only says that today could be decisive for the five candidates.

Let us now look at how the Reagan camp is reacting to all this. Indeed, the swift and unexpected rise in popularity of the little-known Senator Hart from Michigan State [as heard] must rock the self-assurance of even the present head of the White House.

As the results of a public opinion poll conducted by the famous Gallup Institute show, at present 52 percent of the U.S. electorate favor Hart, and just 43 percent are for Reagan. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes that in the meantime, participants in Reagan's election campaign are pleased to observe how the Democrats are attacking each other in the struggle for nomination.

Meanwhile, certain American bourgeois papers are stating with chagrin that very many voters totally separate themselves from the preelection struggle. At the last presidential elections, 47 percent of those eligible to vote did not go to the voting booths. The present campaign is bringing few changes with it, writes (Schiffrin) in THE NEW YORK TIMES. She is involved with the registration of voters. She points out the apathy of Americans [word indistinct],who see no difference between the Republican and Democratic Parties, [words indistinct] about their platforms, and therefore do not intend to take part in the election.

Hart's Victories Assessed

LD131648 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1935 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Excerpts] U.S. observers call tomorrow "Super Tuesday." It will be very important in determining the Democratic Party candidate for the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections.

All the contenders have participated in televised debates. Gary Hart, the 47-year-old senator from Colorado, aroused special interest. He won convincing successes in the primary elections in New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as in the meetings of Democratic Party activists in Maine and Wyoming.

It is not surprising that observers are now trying to determine what the reason is for Gary Hart's success. He was relatively unknown only 2 weeks ago.

The senator from Colorado is presenting himself to voters as the representative of a new generation of politicians propounding new ideas. A correspondent of ABC TV, who accompanied Hart during his election campaigns in Florida and Alabama, even compared him with the late President John F. Kennedy. Like Kennedy, this correspondent reports, Hart is carrying out his campaign under the slogan of new ideas, that will help get the country moving again.

What is the essence of these new ideas? To give an answer to this is more difficult. Best known are Hart's views on disarmament problems. He supports the ratification of the SALT II agreement and opposes the program for construction and deployment of the MX missile, the B-1 bomber, the M-1 tank, and chemical weapons. This position has brought him popularity among many Americans, who support the immediate cessation of the arms race and the reaching of an agreement with the Soviet Union.

Gary Hart also supports proposals for expanding civil rights, particularly women's rights. He is demanding equality of women's wages with men's. As in 9 years in the Senate, THE TIMES of London reports Gary Hart has rarely departed from the basic course of the Democratic Party. Nonetheless, THE TIMES points out, Hart can be considered a liberal.

This is what Gary Hart said about himself to a NEW YORK TIMES observer: It is not generally a matter of me. [sentence as heard] I am not saying that I am the only man in the world capable of taking our country to new frontiers, but I really believe that a second term for Ronald Reagan would in many ways means a serious decline for our country and possibly even for the whole world.

Hart's success was also helped by the fact that many Americans connect the name of his main opponent, Mondale, with the unpopular policy of the former White House head, Carter. Nonetheless, Mondale continues to have a good chance of becoming the Democratic Party candidate. He has significantly more means than Hart, and in U.S. politics, this plays an important role.

However, Mondale's financial resources do not compare with those of Reagan. The committee for Reagan's reelection and the Republican Party National Committee now have $8 million available in comparison with $2 million for the Democrats.

Hart 'Bad News' for Reagan

LD131203 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent Yevgeniy Petko reports from the United States:

On the U.S. political calendar, 13 March is marked off as "Super Tuesday." It is a day when another stage in the primary elections takes place. Delegates to the national congresses of the two major bourgeois parties that control power in this country are selected in nine of the country's states today. It is only by having the support of a majority of the delegates that one can count on being nominated by his party as a candidate for the presidency. Particular attention is now being focused on the struggle in the Democratic Party. In the Republican Party, in the absence of serious competition, Ronald Reagan, the present U.S. President, has announced his own candidacy for reelection.

The first stages of primary elections and meetings among supporters of the Democratic Party have established a new frontrunner, defying all the forecasts. Today this is Gary Hart, U.S. senator from Colorado, who has overtaken Walter Mondale, the recognized main contender and former vice president of the country. But what is much more important is the fact that Hart's candidacy is being depicted as a real alternative to the country's present leadership. As the latest Gallup public opinion poll has shown, Hart is preferred by nine percent more voters than Ronald Reagan. This means that he is capable of winning the 6 November national election. As THE NEW YORK TIMES notes in this connection, the growing support for Hart among Americans is bad news for President Reagan and the Republican Party.

Following today's primaries, the composition of just 20 percent of the delegates to the Democratic Party National Convention -- which is to take place in San Francisco this summer -- will be determined. However, what is far more important, Super Tuesday will make important adjustments to the distribution of forces among the leading contenders and determine the further direction of the election campaign.

U.S. SEEKS TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS OVER CITIZENS

PM091105 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Fueling Psychosis"]

[Text] Washington, 27 Feb -- In the atmosphere of the spy mania and suspicion being fueled by the Reagan administration, the U.S. Senate has approved a bill by a majority of votes calling for the death penalty for high treason, espionage, the assassination or attempted assassination of the President, hijacking, and the setting off of explosives in government institutions entailing loss of human life.

A considerable contribution to the adoption of the bill was made by President Reagan himself, who is pressing for changes in legislation with the alleged aim of more effectively combating organized crime. However, this is at variance with the fact that in the draft federal budget for the coming fiscal year the administration has proposed to cut the appropriations by $14 million for halting drug trafficking in the United States, which, as is known, is the U.S. crime syndicates' most lucrative business. Thus the point is something else: the introduction of measures that would allow the Reagan administration to strengthn its position and to intimidate the country's population, primarily those who oppose the White House line.

The U.S. press is directly linking this legislation to the administration's attempts to restrict human rights in the nation, to provide the government machine with the opportunity to tighten its control over Americans' private lives, and to step up the persecution of dissidents.

VOA TO INSTALL RELAY STATION IN MOROCCO

PM121200 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: 'Poisoners of the Airwaves"]

[Text] Washington, 2 Mar -- The U.S. Administration has taken another step on the path of stepping up psychological warfare against other states: An agreement has been signed here to construct a powerful new short-wave VOA relay station in Morocco.

According to a senior administration spokesman, the station will primarily be set up to increase the number of broadcasts to the USSR and other socialist countries. The spokesman said that the present agreement is part and parcel of the extensive program for the "modernization" of VOA, which is expected to cost over $1 billion over a period of 5 years.

At present, Washington's chief propaganda mouthpiece has more than 110 transmitters poisoning the international airwaves for nearly 1,000 hours a week in 42 languages. By resorting to gross lies and misrepresentation of the facts, the VOA disinformers are totally distorting the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy, attempting to justify the White House's aggressive, militarist course, and sowing the seeds of distrust among the peoples.

VOLGOGRAD DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CANADA

PM130902 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Bragin dispatch: "Emissaries of Hero-City"]

[Excerpt] Ottawa, 5 Mar -- Recently Canada received a delegation from the hero-city of Volgograd, which inscribed an immortal page in the history of the heroic struggle of the Red Army and the Soviet people against the Hitlerite aggressors during the Great Patriotic War.

The delegation, led by Hero of the Soviet Union Major General of Tank Troops A.M. Ovcharov, retired, one of the participants in the Battle of Stalingrad, has come to the Land of the Maple Leaf at the invitation of the Toronto-Volgograd Committee, created last year in connection with the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad.

CHINA

CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES U.S. FOR HOME

LD131904 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 13 TASS -- According to a report of the newspaper WASHINGTON POST a Chinese military delegation that was staying in the United States left for home last week. The newspaper says that the delegation visited in 14 American cities, enterprises of a number of U.S. companies that are the Pentagon's contractors.

WASHINGTON POST writes that the visit which is viewed here as a preparation for an official visit to the United States of defence minister of the PRC next summer might result in the deepening of U.S.-Chinese cooperation in the military sphere.

USSR-PRC AMITY GROUP BRANCH CREATED IN NAKHODKA

LD121349 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] In the Far East port town of Nakhodka today a constituent assembly of public representatives decided to create a branch of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. Its primary organizations include crews of ships travelling to the PRC, dockers' collectives, and educational and cultural workers. Branches of the society now operate in Vladivostok and four other major towns and rayons of the Maritime Kray.

JAPAN PLANNING TO DEPLOY MISSILES ON HOKKAIDO

PM131245 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Mar 84 p 1

[Unnamed own correspondent dispatch: "Four Hundred New Missiles"]

[Text] Tokyo, 12 Mar -- The Japanese Ground Forces General Staff has announced its intention to site new Japanese-made missiles on the northern island of Hokkaido, which is close to the Soviet Union's border. The Mitsubishi Heavy Industries concern will receive an order to manufacture a first consignment of 400 missile weapons. Newspapers observe that these missiles are "capable of hitting targets on South Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands."

NASA DIRECTOR CITES TOKYO SPACE WEAPONRY TALKS

LD131636 Moscow TASS in English 1548 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo March 13 TASS -- At a press conference here today Director of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) James Beggs said that he had held talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and other leaders of the Japanese Government on questions of cooperation in creating new space equipment.

According to the assertions of the transoceanic emissary the Japanese side reacted "positively" to Washington's demand to assume a considerable share of the expenditures for the creation of a U.S. orbital complex having a military significance. Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe had earlier expressed Tokyo's readiness to supply the United States with any types of technology for the creation of space weaponry. The total cost of the project of building the Pentagon's base in near-earth space which was announced by President Reagan in January is estimated at eight billion dollars. It also followed from the words of the NASA director that Washington intends to involve into the implementation of its ambitious programme of the preparation for "Star Wars" also a number of its West European allies in NATO and Canada.

MOSCOW SOIREE MARKS DPRK AGREEMENT ANNIVERSARY

LD132203 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] In Moscow today a public soiree was held devoted to the 35th anniversary of the agreement on economic and culture cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK]. In the speeches it was noted that in the years the agreement has been in effect, our relations with the DPRK have become immeasurably wider and deeper. They enable the peoples of both countries to more fully utilize the advantages of the socialist structure. In the DPRK, a share of working people's achievements in the past 35 years also comes from the toil of Soviet workers, engineers, and scientists. The DPRK ambassador to the USSR, Kwon Hui-kyong, expressed profound gratitude to the USSR for its active support for the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country.

DPRK KNOCKS 'AMERICAN GENERALS' FOR KOREA ROLE

PM131057 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Xrecting Obstacles"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 12 Mar -- The United States bears chief responsibility for the exacerbation of the situation on the Korean peninsula, the newspaper NODONG SINMUN writes.

All military activity in this region -- from the buildup of armed forces to the holding of such large-scale maneuvers as "Team-Spirit-84" -- is being carried out on the orders of American generals.

The Pentagon is also rearming the South Korean Army and inciting it to military confrontation with the DPRK. Under these conditions, the newspaper points out, it is impossible to resolve the questions of eliminating the danger of war in Korea and of the country's independent peaceful unification by means of bilateral talks with the Seoul authorities. The facts show that in order to achieve the relaxation of tension and to remove the threat of war in Korea, it is necessary to convene trilateral talks with the participation of the DPRK, the United States, and South Korea. The conclusion of a peace agreement with the United States and the adoption of a declaration of nonaggression between the North and the South would enable the DPRK and South Korea to begin a dialogue on uniting the country, NODONG SINMUN points out.

DRA'S BARIALAY BLASTS U.S. CENTCOM ACTIONS

LD131409 Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul March 13 TASS -- The recent military preparations of the United States in the Persian Gulf are directly linked with the setting up of the so-called Central Command for Southeast Asia (Centcom), Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, said in an interview with the newspaper HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE-SAWR. The American naval vessels and aircraft concentrated in that area have started a muscle flexing demonstration under the pretext of ensuring the "freedom of navigation" in Hormuz Strait. Centcom targets their guns on the countries of the region opposing the plans of American imperialism, Mahmud Barialay stressed.

The setting of of the Centcom under the conditions of the continuing undeclared war of imperialism against the Afghan people and the revolution has once again exposed the aggressive intentions of the United States Administration, Mahmud Barialay pointed out. The Afghan people regards Centcom to be a direct threat to the interests of the national liberation movements and expresses the confidence that the countries of Southwest Asia, the Middle and Near East, East Africa will step up the joint struggle in order to oppose the plans of the United States for widening the network of the military bases in the region, he said.

It was specially stressed in the interview that the setting up of Centcom and its aims run counter to the principles and norms of international relations, the U.N. Charter and other international acts.

DRA POPULACE AIDS FORCES' ANTI-'GANG' OPERATIONS

PM140947 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 11 Mar 84 p 3

[TASS report: "With the Population's Support"]

[Text] Kabul, 10 Mar -- With the active participation of the population, the DRA Armed Forces are continuing their operations to eliminate counterrevolutionary gangs infiltrated into the country from abroad. The BAKHTAR agency reports that some 200 bandits have been killed in recent days in the Provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Kabul, Balkh, Paktia, Nangarhar, Konarha, and Nimruz and large quantities of foreign-made weapons and ammunition captured.

USSR SIGNALS TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN FEATURED

PM131247 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 March 1984 Second Edition front-pages an unattributed "Afghan Photo Diary" report entitled "Antennas Next to the Clouds" accompanied by two photographs by V. Sukhodolskiy. The report reads as follows:

"Communication is always a paramount task. And its significance can hardly be overestimated in Afghanistan under conditions of high mountains and the absence of roads. What is needed is both reliable communications with the motherland and communications among the subunits located high in the mountains, in tropical valleys, and in yellow semideserts.

"The signalmen of the subunit commanded by first-class specialist Major Vitaliy Nazarenko well undertand the significance of the tasks they are fulfilling. The signalmen are based in the mountains, at a height of 2,250 meters; they themselves brought the equipment up there and installed it; they even brought up earth from below for a small kitchen garden.

The collective has taken shape. Every person seeks to pass on all his knowledge to another. Everyone thinks about his comrade. Therefore, the difficulties are overcome more easily and the successes gladden everyone.

"The subunit's foremost servicemen include Senior Ensign N. Tkachuk, Sergeant D. Mistyukevich, Private First Class N. Dorokhov, and Private S. Sventitskiy.

"The March sun is already very hot by day. But only recently there were blizzards and you could not see your own antennas two steps away. But communication is always maintained, in any weather!"

One picture shows a group of six servicemen in helmets in mountainous terrain "in a break between exercises," with Maj V. Nazarenko among them. The other shows three figures near a dish antenna on a mountain top.

U.S. CENTER'S AWARD TO ZIAUL HAQ ATTACKED

GF131708 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "A Special Award to the President of Pakistan"]

[Text] We would now like to draw your attention to a little word: strategic. This is an international word. In essence it is used in military terminology. It explains the concept of war capability. It is not surprising that we begin our commentary with this word -- the reason being that it is related to the decision to present the special award of the Center for Strategic and International Studies [Halkara Strategia Uyusmasi] to the president of Pakistan.

According to the INDIAN EXPRESS published in India, a decision has been made to present the president of Pakistan the special award of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, based in Washington. The head of the military regime in Pakistan has been found worthy of this award for his great contribution to securing the strategic interests of the United States. U.S. strategic interests in Asia, particularly in Pakistan, are no secret. They form the basis of the U.S. intention to establish military and political hegemony over the states in the Persian Gulf and around the Indian Ocean with a view to plundering their oil and other natural resources.

The essence of the decision to present the award of the Center for Strategic and International Studies to the president of Pakistan proves the size of the contribution made by the military regime in Islamabad to the realization of the U.S. aggressive intentions.

THE NEW YORK TIMES has written the following: Pakistan plays an important role in securing U.S. interests in an enormous region in the Asian continent where it is found.

This is a piece of evidence which confirms our view. With U.S. funds, dozens of military fortifications have been set up on the borders of Pakistan. U.S. military experts are training Afghan counterrevolutionaries in disruptive activities in these military fortifications. Washington is waging an undeclared war against the Afghan people through individuals who harbor ulterior motives. It is trying to disrupt the stable situation in India and Iran.

The U.S. aggressive intentions in that part of the Asian Continent indicate the nature of the objective behind the U.S. aid extended to Islamabad. Most of the nearly $4 billion worth of aid is being utilized to supply Pakistan with new offensive weapons. Among these weapons are the F-16 aircraft, which are capable of carrying nuclear arms; tanks, [word indistinct]; Harpoon and Sparrow rockets; and electronic monitoring stations.

It is worth mentioning that each and every step taken in the direction of militarizing Pakistan, which is being encouraged by Washington, is strengthening the Pakistani people's (?objection) to the military unrest fanned by U.S. imperialism in that part of the world. Pakistan has reportedly agreed to allow U.S. aircraft to use Pakistan's airports. The Pentagon's military fortifications are being set up in Gwedar, (Armar), and Jiwani. These fortifications are planned as facilities for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force units set up by the United States to interfere in the internal affairs of the independent countries in Asia.

Recently, with instructions from Washington, Pakistan proposed a new pro-American alliance to replace the disbanded CENTO -- an aggressive military alliance whose members were Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Great Britain. According to a number of reports, the Pentagon is planning to site Pershing II nuclear missiles in Pakistan aimed at vast regions in the Asian Continent.

The United States has declared that part of Asia as a region of vital importance from the point of view of U.S. interests. In addition, the Pentagon's plans stipulate the deployment of Pakistani troops in countries in that part of the Asian Continent in the event of a situation that would threaten the interests of U.S. monopolies. Currently, there are over 30,000 Pakistani military personnel in a number of countries in southwestern Asia, including Saudi Arabia. A special division of 20,000 men and [word indistinct] has been set up in Pakistan for deployment in the event of a strained situation. This division has been placed under the orders of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force Command.

What we have mentioned above must be the great services of the military regime in Pakistan, which Washington deemed worthy to receive the special award of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. However, the activities of the military regime in Pakistan are being assessed in a different way by the great masses in that country, including the [words indistinct]. It is no wonder that the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy has demanded abrogation of the military alliance between Pakistan and the United States in addition to avoidance of the drawing up of aggressive military plans together with the United States and the creation of a state of war with neighboring countries.

The experience of Pakistan has proved that instead of the special award for safeguarding U.S. strategic interests, what will actually guarantee Pakistan's security is the abrogation of that country's military alliance with the United States and its peaceful co-existence with neighboring countries.

U.S. MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN CONDEMNED

LD132108 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] There have been reports in Indian papers of another United States-Pakistani military deal. It provides for the delivery by the United States of latest medium-range missiles, Sparrow, to Pakistan. Such missiles are intended as equipment for F-16 fighter-bombers which are another weapon Pakistan receives from United States monopolies. In the opinion of the newspaper PATRIOT, these shipments will have extremely serious consequences for the security of India. This assessment is well grounded, especially if the new move toward militarization of Pakistan is considered in the complex of steadily expanding military contacts between the two countries. More on this subject from our observer Vladimir Ivanov:

The United States-Pakistani complex military deal valued at $3.2 billion has entered a decisive stage. Its basic point is to deliver F-16 fighter-bombers to Pakistan. Such vehicles can deliver both conventional and nuclear warheads to targets deep inside the territory of neighboring countries. Equipping them with Sparrow missiles will boost the offensive potential of the Pakistani Air Force. As the Indian defense minister, Venkataraman, has said, the receipt by the Islamabad regime of such weapons as United States fighter-bombers, F-16, exerts a considerable influence on the strategic situation in the region and creates a threat to India's security. Delhi is also concerned, and not without reason, over other aspects of the program for reequipping the Pakistani Army.

United States-made offensive weapons are intended for use by the Pakistani Navy and land forces. The regime in Islamabad has received or expects to receive in an agreed period sea-based Harpoon missiles, tanks, artillery, and warships. As Indian official circles rightfully note, United States military shipments to Pakistan increase despite the fact that its regime seeks to build nuclear weapons of its own. All this not only violates the well known Symington-Glenn amendment which bans military aid to countries seeking to possess nuclear weapons, to attain its selfish goals the United States sacrifices the interests of good neighborliness and the security of nations in Asia. And it is well known at that that the program of militarization of Pakistan, carried out with the help of the United States, is spearheaded against India.

The United States tries to build up its own military presence in that region. It is reported that United States electronic surveillance stations will operate with the consent of the Pakistani regime in Peshawar, Sargodha, Karachi and a number of other Pakistani cities. United States military experts are helping modernize Pakistani military bases and port facilities. The Pentagon already makes use of bases in Pakistani territory as points for redeploying its military equipment. The United States regards Pakistan as the leading [word indistinct] a military alliance official Washington intends to knock together to replace the CENTO bloc which ceased to exist some time ago.

The reanimation of bloc strategy, the attempts to draw Pakistan into United States military preparations in the region and also the deliveries of latest offensive weapons to the regime in Islamabad represent an open infrigement on the principles of nonalignment. It's no secret that the nonaligned nations and the United States differ on the key international problems, such as arms limitation, primarily nuclear armaments, demilitarization of the Indian Ocean and of outer space.

India, a great Asian power and recognized leader of the movement of nonalignment, holds positive positions on these global issues. Militarization of Pakistan should, in the opinion of Washington, serve as a means of exerting pressure on the peaceful foreign policy of India.

COMPARISON OF USTINOV TALK TO INDIAN SERVICEMEN

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 10 March carries in its Second Edition on page 5 a TASS report on the speech by USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov to Indian servicemen in Uttar Pradesh State. The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA report, entitled "For the Good of the Peoples of the USSR and India," has been compared with the Moscow TASS International Service version published in the 9 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page D 1, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, line three reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...the Indian Government, arrived 8 March in the town ...(omitting passage)

Paragraph one, line five reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...of the Indian Ground Forces. He familiarized himself with the organization of the unit's combat training and with the routine of soldiers and officers. Then he visited the Ground Forces military school which is located in that city and is well-known in India. The military unit's personnel and the school's students gave the Soviet guest a warm welcome.

In conversation with ...(substituting "Ground Forces" for "Army" and adding passage)

Paragraph two, line one reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...defense minister said: As sincere friends of India, we are pleased that combat hardware is persistently being mastered among the troops and that strenuous combat training is taking place. The organization of training of future officers in the military school also leaves a good impression. The world situation ...(adding passage)

Paragraph three, line one, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA omits "the minister said."

Paragraph four, line eight reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...all-round cooperation among countries. Indira Gandhi also exerts much effort in this direction through her position as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

D.F. Ustinov conveyed greetings from the Soviet Armed Forces and wished Indian servicemen good health and new successes in training, in enhancing the Army's combat readiness and in strengthening their motherland's defense capability.

On the same ...(rewording and adding text)

COMPARISON OF USTINOV FAREWELL REMARKS IN INDIA

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 11 March frontpages in its Second Edition a TASS report on the farewell speech by USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov in New Delhi. The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA report, entitled "Return Home," has been compared with the Moscow TASS English version published in the 12 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page D 3, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, penultimate line reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...of the Indian Army. V.N. Rykov, USSR ambassador to India, and S. Nural Hasan, Indian ambassador to the USSR, were among those seeing him off.

Before leaving for ...(adding sentence)

Paragraph three, line five reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...shall remember the warm and friendly reception accorded everywhere in ...(substituting "warm and friendly reception" for "hearty welcome")

Paragraph three, last line reads in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: ...people are equally kind and friendly.

We are ...(substituting "kind" for "warm").

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA omits quotation marks throughout.

PRK READY TO REJOIN MEKONG RIVER COMMITTEE

PM140902 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent V. Kalinin: "PRK's Stance"]

[Text] Bangkok, 12 Mar -- A statement from the PRK has reached the headquarters of the provisional Mekong committee in the Thai capital. The statement speaks of the need for and expediency of resuming the committee's activity at full strength. It is well known that right now representatives of Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand are working in it. Since the committee's creation, Kampuchea has also been a member, but in 1975 the Pol Pot regime broke off cooperation in it.

The PRK has frequently stated its readiness to take a constructive part in the committee's activity. Kampuchean Territory is in the Mekong River Basin. Without Kampuchea's direct participation, it is impossible to implement the colossal project for the Mekong's development in full, your correspondent was told by (Galay Magdi), acting secretary of the provisional committee.

LAOTIAN PEOPLE 'FULLY' BACK USSR PEACE MOVES

LD110120 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Laotian people fully support the USSR's constructive initiatives aimed at halting the arms race and eliminating the threat of war. This was stated in Vientiane at a meeting with a delegation of the Soviet, Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea support committee, by Phoun Sipaseut, member of the Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, minister of foreign affairs. He underlined that close militant solidarity is the success of the struggle of the socialist countries for the peaceful future of mankind.

'MOST AGGRESSIVE' U.S. ASEAN POLICY SCORED

PM140942 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 First Edition p 6

[V. Shurygin article: "ASEAN: Pressure Increased: On U.S. Policy in Southeast Asia"]

[Text] Recently, the world public has seen sharp activation of the policy of the most aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism. The growing tension in Asia, in particular, also stems from this policy. The Pentagon's fist is raised against the Persian Gulf countries, and the Indian Ocean -- whose militarization is part of the U.S. Administration's global strategy -- is being opened up strategically. Attention is drawn in this connection by Washington's intensified activity in Southeast Asia, particularly in the countries of ASEAN -- the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Brunei, which recently gained political independence.

These countries, with a population of more than 250 million people, have at their disposal rich natural and manpower resources and constitute a profitable target for capital investment. For example, 90 percent of the natural rubber, over 70 percent of the tin, 20 percent of the tea, and 10 percent of the oil imported into the United States comes from there. In the last 4 years alone, U.S. monopolies' investments in those countries have doubled to $7 billion.

As is known, Washington ranks the Far East and the Persian Gulf regions equal to West Europe in terms of military-strategic importance.

As far as the ASEAN countries are concerned, the Pentagon casts them in the role of a staging post in the transfer of U.S. Armed Forces from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean and on to the Persian Gulf, Southwest and South Asia, and East Africa. Matters are not confined to this, however.

The naval and Air Force bases at Subic Bay and Clark Field in the Philippines are the Pentagon's main advance posts in Southeast Asia. Together with bases in Japan, they serve as a springboard for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. And Thailand is being turned into a bridgehead for subversive activity against the socialist countries of Indochina and for the undeclared war against Kampuchea. Hundreds of U.S. military advisers are there on a permanent basis, and arms, ammunition, and equipment are constantly arriving from across the ocean. The United States is once again making use of its former military bases on that country's territory.

It is therefore perfectly clear that ASEAN's operation as an organization chiefly occupied with questions of regional economic and cultural cooperation for development purposes, as was conceived by its members, does not suit the United States at all. It would like to transform the association into a military-political grouping in Washington's service. It is no simple matter, of course, if only because three of its members -- Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore -- are nonaligned states. Indonesia, moreover, is one of the founders of that movement. Nevertheless the United States and its allies are carrying out intensive work in this direction, using various pressure levers.

The ASEAN states' vulnerability to such pressure is primarily conditioned by their economic dependence on the West. Thus, trade with the United States, Japan, and West Europe accounts for two-thirds of the trade turnover of "the six." Eighty-three percent of Singapore's industrial output, for example, is produced at enterprises belonging to foreign capital. The U.S. Caltex company accounts for 40 percent of all the oil extracted in Indonesia. According to figures in the Hong Kong newspaper ASIA WALL STREET JOURNAL, the ASEAN countries' debts to Western countries exceed $65 billion.

Washington's policy in Asia envisages not just maintaining and expanding its own military presence, but also urging the Asian allies and partners to build up their own armies. As a result, the ASEAN countries have been forced to support arms spending which is burdensome for their modest budgets. Thus, in fiscal 1982-1983 this spending amounted to $6.5 billion in all. A considerable proportion of this money is spent on U.S. military supplies, which have increased 150 percent in the last 5 years to more than $3 billion. To harness the ASEAN states to the Pentagon's chariot, the United States is doing all it can to encourage military cooperation between them -- holding joint maneuvers, standardizing arms, and so forth -- as well as cooperation with states linked to Washington by treaties and agreements, such as Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea. According to the American scenario, the ASEAN countries are also assigned a definite role in the idea being elaborated by the United States and Japan of creating a so-called "Pacific Ocean community", a military-political alliance which would also include members of the ANZUS military bloc, Canada, certain Latin American countries, South Korea, and possibly Taiwan.

The U.S. special services are also involved in implementing Washington's hegemonist policy in the ASEAN countries. They utilize any channel to penetrate all the key spheres of their economic and social life and infiltrate the education system, the state apparatus, political organizations, trade unions, the mass media, business circles, and so forth. High-ranking visitors from across the ocean intimidate the ASEAN states ruling circles with the "threat of communism" and preach unbridled anti-Sovietism to undermine their links with the Soviet Union.

Southeast Asia provides a vivid example of U.S. activity aimed at maintaining seats of tension to exploit them in the struggle against the socialist world and the national liberation movement and undermine their fruitful cooperation. Imperialist propaganda's fanning of the so-called "Kampuchean problem" serves these ends. Using various kinds of propaganda devices and hypocritical contrivances, attempts are being made to cloud a clear issue. In brief, it essentially boils down to the fact that in the mid-seventies the long-suffering Kampuchean people, who had borne tremendous sacrifices in the struggle against U.S. aggression (more than 500,000 Kampucheans died as a result of bombings by U.S. planes), were beset by a new calamity in the form of the bloody regime of Pol Pot, whose 4-year rule resulted in the death of another 3 million people.

The people of Kampuchea drove out Pol Pot's men and started to build a new life while healing the wounds of the past. They might well be congratulated and wished every success here. However, for more than 4 years now and with a persistence worthy of better use, the "human rights fighters" on the other side of the ocean, imbued with love for the bloody clique, have been making one attempt after another in one or another guise to restore this clique to power in Kampuchea. They are not in the least troubled that such a policy disregards the real situation that has come about in the region, not to mention the flagrant interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs.

The ASEAN countries are observing with unconcealed disquiet the buildup of the military muscle and stepping up of the activity of America's main Asian ally, Japan, whose ruling circles have assumed the role of a U.S. "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in the Pacific Ocean.

The U.S. President's visit to Japan and South Korea at the end of last year showed that the alliance with Tokyo and Seoul created by the United States is aimed not just against the socialist countries. It poses a threat to the national interests of all Asian peoples and to peace and security in the region. The Asian states, the Indonesian newspaper KOMPAS wrote, commenting on the results of this trip, are voicing concern at the revival of Japanese militarism and do not want Japan to be turned into their "military protector." But this is the role the United States is assigning it.

The history of the Southeast Asian countries contains several instructive examples concerning people who foisted themselves on them as "protectors and patrons." You only have to recall how militarist Japan's implementation of the "sphere of mutual prosperity" thesis became in practice for the peoples of that region an orientally refined Japanese form of colonialism. And what did the United States bring the region when it appeared in the sixties in the role of "Asia's savior from communism?" A dirty war whose consequences will affect the life of the peoples of Southeast Asia for a long time to come.

The creation of ASEAN at the end of the sixties reflected the desire of the peoples of the region's countries for peace and stability and their determination to counter the West's economic expansion by joint efforts and to organize subregional cooperation for development purposes. This factor guaranteed the viability of the association and helped to ensure that it is a serious political reality today, exerting an influence on the course of events in Asia.

Practice shows that ASEAN only has a future as an instrument of mutually advantageous cooperation and a weapon in the struggle for the defense of the member countries' national interests and against outside pressure and all forms of imperialist interference and neocolonial pillaging of their national resources.

In the last decade and a half, the association's members have managed to largely eliminate the atmosphere of hostility and suspicion among themselves and to achieve definite progress in expanding economic and cultural ties. Thus, the volume of trade among them increased from $7 to $20 billion in the period from 1976 through 1980. More than 10 standing committees are currently functioning in the association dealing with questions of subregional cooperation in the sphere of transport, communications, civil aviation and meteorology, the output of food and fish products, science and technology, finances, the mass media, and others. Regional organizations such as an interparliamentary organization, a writers' association, and a Red Cross have also been created within the framework of ASEAN. Exchanges of artistic collectives, television and radio programs, movies, and exhibitions are taking place.

Despite pressure from Washington, the tendency to improve relations with all of Southeast Asian states is growing in the ASEAN countries' policy. This is particularly helped by the peace-loving policy of the SRV, Kampuchea, and Laos, which are consistently pursuing a course of good-neighborliness, and their repeated proposals to conclude a treaty of nonaggression and normalization of relations with the ASEAN countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and to hold an international conference to settle regional questions. Constructive dialogue is, in their opinion, the only way to solve the problems of that region.

Washington's overtly militarist and imperialist course is meeting opposition from the general public in the ASEAN countries. This is vividly attested to, for example, by events in the Philippines, which up until now has been regarded as one of the most reliable U.S. partners. Recently anti-American demonstrations in that country assumed such a scale that the U.S. President was forced to defer his visit to that country, as well as to Indonesia and Thailand, planned for November last year.

The anti-American demonstrations in the Philippines, as indeed in certain other Asian countries, attest to growing dissatisfaction at those states' being drawn into the orbit of U.S. imperialist geopolitics. This is understandable. Neither the arms race being foisted on them by Washington, nor an atmosphere of hostility and suspicion in the region, nor unbridled anti-Sovietism, but a situation of trust and good-neighborliness based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutually advantageous international cooperation meet the interests of the peoples of Southeast Asia and their desire to strengthen their political independence and economic self-sufficiency and to solve the complex socioeconomic problems in those countries.

USSR-GDR BROTHERHOOD-IN-ARMS WEEK LAUNCHED

PM141518 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Brotherhood-in-Arms Week"]

[Text] Berlin, 21 Feb -- The Brotherhood-in-Arms Week between the GDR National People's Army and the USSR Armed Forces began with a mass rally in Brandenburg (Potsdam District). It is traditionally held on the eve of the holidays of the two fraternal countries' servicemen -- 23 February, Soviet Army and Navy Day; and the GDR National People's Army Day, which is celebrated 1 March.

Army General H. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR national defense minister, stressed in his speech at the rally that the servicemen of the GDR National People's Army are reliably defending the gains of peace and socialism in single formation with the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Army made a decisive contribution to Europe's liberation from fascism, and vigilantly guards peace.

Within the framework of the week, numerous meetings between Soviet Army and National People's Army servicemen will be held in various GDR cities. There will be art and photography exhibitions detailing the friendship, cooperation, and all-around collaboration between the USSR and GDR Armed Forces.

PONOMAREV TALKS WITH HUNGARIAN TU CHIEFS

PM092106 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talk at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received S. Gaspar and L. Mehes, members of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and president and general secretary, respectively, of the Hungarian National Trade Union Council, who are visiting the USSR at the AUCCTU's invitation, at the CPSU Central Committee 7 March.

The talk, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, was attended by CPSU Central Committee members S.A. Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, and O.V. Rakhmanin, first deputy chief of a section at the CPSU Central Committee.

LIGACHEV RECEIVES VISITING MSZMP DELEGATION

PM121421 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] Under the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the MSZMP, a delegation of party workers from the MSZMP headed by L. Karakas, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and chief of the MSZMP Central Committee Party Management and Administration Section, visited the Soviet Union 5-8 March.

The Hungarian comrades familiarized themselves with the CPSU's experience in party work and had meetings and talks at the CSU Central Committee's Administration of Affairs, Moscow Gorkom, and Moscow's Zhdanovskiy Raykom.

The delegation was received by Ye. K. Ligachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. They had a warm and friendly talk which was attended by N. Ye. Kruchina, CPSU Central Committee administrator of affairs. Hungarian Ambassador to the USSR S. Rajnai was present at the talk.

MSZMP'S SZUROS ON FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR

PM121021 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Firm Foundations of Friendship"]

[Text] Budapest, 29 Feb -- The MSZMP welcomes the continuity of the USSR's foreign policy course and rates highly the Soviet leadership's determination to continue to consistently pursue a Leninist peace policy, M. Szuros, MSZMP Central Committee secretary, has stressed.

We reaffirm, he stated at a session of the Hungarian National Peace Council, that we will unfailingly make every effort to strengthen Hungarian-Soviet friendship, which embraces all spheres of social life. This friendship has firm, principled foundations and expresses the Hungarian people's national and international interests in equal measure. Now, as always, we attach special significance to the development of relations with the Soviet Union.

SFRY PRESIDENCY APPROVES ZARKOVIC USSR TALKS

PM121100 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Positive Assessment"]

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Mar -- A report by V. Zarkovic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, on his visit to the Soviet Union was heard at a session of the SFRY Presidency that has just been held.

A report published here notes that the meeting with K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the talks with A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR Foreign Minister; V.V. Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other Soviet leaders will promote the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Yugoslavia. The talks with the Soviet leadership reaffirmed the principles contained in the 1955 Belgrade Declaration and the Moscow Declaration and Statement of 1956.

The SFRY Presidency gave a positive assessment to the exchange of opinions in Moscow on international questions, in the course of which identity or proximity of view on the most important questions of the struggle for peace and detente was noted. Stress was laid on the significance of the Nonaligned Movement as an important active factor in the struggle to maintain peace and consolidate security, independence, and equal political and economic cooperation, the report points out.

COMPARISON OF KADAR SFRY VISIT COMMUNIQUE

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 10 March in its First Edition publishes on page 4 a TASS report on the Hungarian-SFRY communique under the heading "Stable Basis" which has been compared to the Moscow TASS English version published on page F 2 of the 9 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT under the subheading "Communique on Visit Results" revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, line one dateline reads in PRAVDA: ...Belgrade March 9 TASS (changing date)

Line four in PRAVDA reads: ...of the official friendly visit...(adding word)

Paragraph two, last line reads in PRAVDA: ...their social system.

During the talks special note was taken of the importance of the consolidation of security and cooperation in Europe and of the initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and cooperation in the Balkans and the Mediterranean region. The sides denounced Israel's aggressive policy and demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory and the safeguarding of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The importance of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for peace and security and in the solution of urgent international problems was stress.

The communique noted the successful.... (adding passage, and substituting "communique" for "sides")

VOGEL'S MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE; VISIT CONCLUDES

Impressions of Chernenko

LD131437 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- Our meeting with General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko and a delegation of Supreme Soviet deputies, led by alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Boris Ponomarev, have been held in a frank, businesslike and constructive atmosphere, Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the SPD Presidium and chairman of the party faction at the West German Bundestag, has declared. He addresses a press conference here today for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Sharing impressions of his conversation with Konstantin Chernenko, Hans-Jochen Vogel said: "We have found out that the new general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee is a personality who is aware of his responsibility for the fate of the world. He can be characterised as a composed, strong-willed person, able to listen to and judge the views of others. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee repeatedly and impressively stressed continuity in Soviet foreign and domestic policy."

Details of Talks

LD131817 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- The meetings of the S.P.D. delegation with the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko as well as with a group of deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet were held in a frank, businesslike and constructive atmosphere, Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the S.P.D. Presidium, chairman of the S.P.D. group in Bundestag, said at a press conference in Moscow today. Taking part in the press conference were also members of the S.P.D. Presidium Egon Bahr and Hans-Juergen Wischnewski.

Touching upon the questions discussed at these meetings Vogel said that the Soviet side had unambiguously confirmed its known stand that the talks on medium-range nuclear weapon systems in Europe can be resumed only given the return to the situation that existed prior to the United States' commencement of the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. The Soviet side described all other expectations on this score as self-deception.

We made it plain the stand of refusing of the deployment of these U.S. missiles in the West, Vogel said. We do not agree either to the deployment of missiles by the Warsaw Treaty member-states, he said.

The Soviet side received skeptically the proposal of the S.P.D. delegation to combine the talks on "European" and strategic nuclear armaments, Vogel said. The Soviet side was more outspoken about talks on tactical nuclear weapons. At the same time it specified its proposals on the adoption of definite norms in relations between nuclear powers. The chairman of the S.P.D. group in the West German Bundestag emphasized the community of views with the Soviet side on the fact that any fresh spiral in the nuclear arms race threatens the life of entire mankind. He pointed out that there exists also a consensus of opinion about the need of constant efforts aimed at the removal of chemical weapons, above all, in Europe. Hans-Jochen Vogel spoke highly about the readiness of the Soviet Union for on the spot control in the framework of global removal of chemical weapons. We welcome the recent proposal of the Warsaw Treaty on the limitation and reduction of military spending. Just as the Soviet Union we hold that the funds thus saved could be used for aid to developing countries.

Both sides agree, Hans-Jochen Vogel said, that new impetus is needed for the success of the talks in Vienna, for the achievement of universal ending of nuclear tests, demilitarization of outer space, mutual agreement on renunciation of the use of force.

The chairman of the S.P.D. parliamentary group noted the great significance of the policy of treaties that was started when Chancellor Willy Brandt was in office and was continued by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He said both sides assess this policy as an important instrument promoting the lowering of international tension and safeguard of peace. Vogel said the Soviet side proclaimed the readiness to widen and deepen whatever positive things were achieved on this road. The development of relations of the FRG with the Soviet Union and with other European socialist countries after the conclusion of the "Moscow Treaty" confirm that these states must cooperate with each other for the sake of consolidating peace and international security, Vogel said. This will be promoted, specifically, by further development of economic ties, as well as cultural, scientific and technical contacts.

Answering the question of a TASS correspondent concerning norms of relations among nuclear powers formulated in the election speech of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko, Hans-Jochen Vogel said: These norms that are figuratively described as "code of conduct" are based on the principles of equality, absence of any military superiority and threat. [Words indistinct] these norms of mutual relations and believe that they can and must promote the cause of mutual understanding and confidence among states. [Moscow TASS in Russian at 1603 GMT on 13 March begins the sentence as follows: "we positively assess"]

The question on the S.P.D. attitude to events in Central America was asked. Hans-Juergen Wischnewski said that the S.P.D. received with much interest a report on the coming elections in Nicaragua. There is a movement in the FRG in support of the Nicaraguan people and the S.P.D. has a fund of solidarity with that country.

Answering a question from a Swedish correspondent Egon Bahr emphasized the consistency of the Soviet Union's policy in the sphere of disarmament.

No New USSR Arms Initiative

LD131502 Hamburg DPA in German 1410 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Moscow, 13 Mar (DPA) -- The Soviet leadership has given no signal to Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the SPD Bundestag group, for a new initiative in the deadlocked disarmament efforts between East and West. At an international press conference in Moscow today Vogel said that the Soviet side has rather strongly stressed its known position. Moscow made it a precondition for the resumption of the Geneva negotiations with the United States on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe that the new U.S. missiles that have been deployed in West Europe since November 1983 be again withdrawn.

According to Vogel, the Soviet leadership has also expressed a skeptical view about the SPD's proposal to the effect that the Geneva IMF negotiations and START talks be merged. However, this skepticism should not be understood as an "absolute and unconditional no," the SPD political said. Moscow was receptive to negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles.

SPD Presidium member Egon Bahr, who visited Moscow twice last year, said at the press conference that then as now, there is no recognizable aspect in the Soviet stance under which the Geneva negotiations could continue in the presence of Western arms modernization. The only difference is the USSR's additional demand for a return to the situation before November 1983.

Vogel made it clear to the press that at the present he sees no willingness on the part of Moscow to agree to a moratorium in the deployment of new missiles in East and West. The reason for this is that both the United States and USSR still adhere to their previous positions.

According to Vogel it was also agreed that new initiatives were required for the Vienna MBFR negotiations on Friday. This also applied to comprehensive agreements on a ban on nuclear weapon tests, the demilitarization of outer space, to agreements on nonaggression between East and West, and to the establishment of nuclear-free corridors.

Vogel said the Soviet side also agreed with an SPD proposal to set up a mixed group which would work out proposals for using unspent military expenditure on aid for the Third World. This aid is also an element in the Warsaw Pact's Prague Statement of January 1983, in which the East proposes to the West a freeze on military expenditure and its subsequent reduction.

Referring to relations between the FRG and the Soviet Union, both sides, according to Vogel, stressed that the policy of treaties introduced and continued by Federal Chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt were still of decisive significance. The 1970 Moscow Treaty still had to be adhered to despite any setbacks.

With reference to bilateral issues, Bahr and Vadim Zagladin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, discussed the problem of the great drop in emigration figures for German minorities in the Soviet Union. Bahr submitted a list of names of special cases. SPD presidium member Hans-Juergen Wischnewski discussed issues concerning German-Soviet economic relations with Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Nikolay Komarov.

Carl-Friedrich von Weizsaecker, who is accompanying Vogel in Moscow, talked with Soviet Academy of Sciences President Anatoliy Aleksandrov on the nuclear missiles issue from a scientific point of view.

Vogel-Chernenko Talks Viewed

LD132314 Moscow in Italian to Italy 1800 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Excerpt] CPSU Central Committee Secretary General Konstantin Chernenko, and President of the SPD group in the FRG Bundestag Hans-Jochen Vogel, met in Moscow. The meeting discussed problems of the world situation, relations between the USSR and Federal Germany, and relations between the CPSU and the German Social Democratic Party. In this connection, here is a comment by our observer, Nikolay Gratsianov:

Over the past few years, CPSU leaders have talked many times with leaders of the social-democratic and socialist parties of West Europe, about the problems of today's international life, particularly problems linked with preventing the risk of war. Contacts with West German Social Democrats were regular and permitted a very useful exchange of views. These views were not identical, because the USSR and the FRG belong to different social systems and are members of political-military alliances which are different. However, Soviet Communists have always thought -- and still do -- that this must not be an obstacle for jointly seeking ways which lead to strengthening peace and security. This is a fact which takes on special importance especially today, when it is a matter of the struggle against nuclear holocaust. The USSR's policy in this field is immutable: It is still aimed at ultimately freeing Europe from all types of nuclear weapons.

At the meeting with Hans-Jochen Vogel, Konstantin Chernenko stressed again that the USSR, as in the past, is ready to solve the problems of strategic arsenals and Euromissiles on a constructive and mutually acceptable basis. The talks can be resolved at any moment, as soon as the United States has eliminated the obstacles created by it with the deployment of its new missiles in the European Continent.

As to the concessions [as heard] of the foreign policy of the SPD and of all European Social Democrats, one can note an obvious evolution toward lessening military confrontation. Last autumn, the SPD congress spoke against the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles on the territory of the FRG. The SPD, Hans-Jochen Vogel noted at the meeting with Konstantin Chernenko, is committed to the consolidation of detente and peaceful cooperation in Europe, fights against the nuclear armaments' race, and is for partnership in the field of East-West security.

Considering the weight and the influence of social democrats and socialists in many West European countries, the requests by large masses of people and their commitment not to admit the development of the nuclear armaments race, one can still hope that their voices will be heard by Atlantist governments.

For their part, Soviet Communists and the Government of the USSR, Konstantin Chernenko said yesterday, are ready to collaborate with all political forces, all governments which sincerely want to reduce the threat of war and consolidate peace.

Ponomarev, Vogel Dinner

LD132101 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- A dinner was given on behalf of the committee of the USSR Parliamentary Group today in honour of the delegation of the SPD group in the FRG Bundestag headed by the chairman of the group Hans-Jochen Vogel.

During the dinner alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Boris Ponomarev and Hans-Jochen Vogel exchanged friendly toasts.

The FRG Ambassador in the USSR Hansjoerg Kastl held a reception on the occasion of the delegation's stay in the Soviet Union.

Vogel Speech on Disarmament

LD132307 Hamburg DPA in German 1641 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, Mar (DPA) -- The official part of Hans-Jochen Vogel's visit to Moscow ended this evening (local time) with a dinner in the historic Catherine Hall in the Kremlin. In a speech the SPD politician stressed that his party supported a new start in the disarmament negotiations between East and West. "We are trying to get support for a fresh dialogue."

It was a "deeply discouraging prospect" when on the one hand the United States demanded concessions from the USSR for the resumption of the Geneva talks and on the other the Soviet Union demanded that the new U.S. nuclear missiles be withdrawn from Europe before a fresh start in Geneva.

The deployment of ever newer nuclear missiles in East and West did not reduce the danger to mankind but increased it, the SPD politician said. "The two superpowers are far apart in their answers to the question of how this can be halted."

Activities in Moscow

LD131013 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- The delegation of the SPD group in the FRG Bundestag led by its chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel went today to Yuriy Andropov's grave at the Kremlin Wall and laid flowers to it.

The guests had a meeting at the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet. Vladimir Promyslov, chairman of the Executive Committee, familiarised them with the history and prospects for the development of the municipal economy of the Soviet capital and business ties between Moscow and Bonn. The delegation also visited the Leo Tolstoy Memorial House in Moscow.

Departs USSR 14 Mar

LD140758 Moscow TASS in English 0745 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS -- The delegation of the Bundestag faction of the Social Democratic Party of Germany led by Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the faction, left the Soviet Union today. The delegation had paid a visit to the USSR at the [passage indistinct] Soviet deputies Vadim Zagladin, Georgiy Arbatov and other officials.

The farewell party included Hansjoerg Kastl, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the USSR.

PORTUGAL'S SOARES IN U.S. FOR TALKS ON BASES

LD140931 Moscow TASS in English 0911 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 14 TASS -- Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares has arrived in the U.S. capital on an official visit. He will meet President Reagan, State Secretary Schultz, Defence Secretary Weinberger and other high-ranking officials of the U.S. Administration.

According to informed observers, the sides will discuss in detail at their talks the question of establishing an Air Force base for U.S. spy planes and a squadron of long-range bombers on Portugal's Porto Santo Island.

The agenda also includes the use of the strategic air force base Lazes on the Azores and the expansion of U.S. military facilities there. Like a number of other facilities, that base is intended as a staging area for the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Force".

SPANISH DEFENSE MINISTER IN U.S. FOR TALKS

LD131346 Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 13 TASS -- Defence Minister Narciso Serra of Spain has arrived here for an official visit. On arrival he had meetings with U.S. Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. They discussed bilateral relations, especially in the military field, and different international problems.

Official spokesmen for the State Department and the Pentagon avoid commenting on this visit by the Spanish minister. But political observers point out that the Washington administration intends to use his stay here for further drawing Spain into the militaristic foreign policy of USA and NATO. The UPI news agency says that the main result of N. Serra's meeting with C. Weinberger was the signature of an agreement under which Spain undertook not to transfer to third countries secret military techonology sold to it by the United States.

Washington does not conceal that it regards Spanish territory as a staying ground for aggression by U.S. imperialism. The main value of Spain for the USA, as George Shultz said bluntly in Congress the other day, consists in the fact that Spain has given the United States access to its air force and naval installations which may prove to be of critical importance in the event of a European conflict. He also said that the Reagan administration intends to allocate for Madrid in the next fiscal year big appropriations in order to strengthen the so-called "NATO's southern flank" which includes, apart from Spain, Greece, Portugal and Turkey. The overall volume of U.S. military aid to these countries is set at 1.8 billion dollars. W. Schneider, undersecretary of state, stressed for his part, that by its military aid to Spain the United States wants to help modernise its armed forces to bring them up to the level of NATO standards. Specifically the U.S. Defence Department is planning to supply Spain with a big batch of up-to-date American fighter bombers of the F-18 type.

Madrid 13 March TASS -- As was reported by the newspaper PAIS, the first squadron of 72 American F-18 planes, bought by Spain last year, is to be based at Saragoza early in 1986. Over 100 Spanish pilots and technicians are to be sent overseas for training.

BENELUX MINISTERS DISCUSS MILITARY COOPERATION

PM140858 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent V. Drobkov: "Meeting of Military Ministers"]

[Text] Luxembourg, 9 Mar -- A 2-day meeting of the defense ministers of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg has been held here. It was devoted to a discussion of military policy and plans for conducting joint maneuvers and the expansion of the three countries' cooperation in the military field. The ministers decided to continue to hold similar meetings regularly at least once a year and on the eve of sessions of NATO leading organs.

The military ministers' meeting has seriously perturbed the Luxembourg peace-loving public, afraid that the development of this "cooperation" may drag Luxembourg still further into the orbit of NATO militarist preparations. As is well known, Washington and NATO are now stepping up pressure on Belgium and the Netherlands to make these countries agree to the start of the deployment of the new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles on their territory. Preparation for the deployment of cruise missiles on Belgian and Netherlands soil is already under way. The military ties of these two countries are also expanding in other fields. The Benelux defense ministers supported the plans put forward by Paris for developing closer relations of cooperation between the West European states in the military policy field.

At the same time the ministers gathered in Luxembourg could not fail to note that it is becoming increasingly difficult and costly for their countries to take part in the implementation of various NATO militarist programs which require ever increasing expenditures. They have also expressed themselves in favor of resuming talks on problems of curbing arms. However, this latter statement means rather an attempt to conceal the buildup of militarist preparations behind a screen of peace-loving phraseology.

BELGIAN CP MANIFESTO HITS EEC DECLINING PRESTIGE

LD102222 Moscow TASS in English 2055 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Brussels March 10 TASS -- The Communist Party of Belgium has published in the newspaper LE DRAPEAU ROUGE its manifesto for the European Parliament elections scheduled for June 17. The manifesto points out that the European Economic Community (EEC) is now going through a deep political crisis. The community's prestige in the eyes of the public is declining. The pace in the Common Market is set as before by the major financial groups, transnational corporations and right-wing forces. Among the characteristic features of the EEC now is growth of unemployment and conflicting interests of the partners.

The Communist Party of Belgium considers it necessary that the EEC member-countries should become more independent in face of the hegemonism of the United States, which, guided by its selfish policy in trade and economy, permanently inflicts damage upon the interests of Western Europe, tries to put up obstacles in the way of widening East-West trade relations, to oust "Europe minor" from the world markets.

On top of that, the document says, by its dangerous militaristic policy, the USA is turning Western Europe into its nuclear hostage, into a victim of the arms race, which is being permanently built up. Together with millions of West Europeans the Communist Party of Belgium resolutely opposes the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, declares for the withdrawal of the missiles already deployed, for the creation of nuclear-free zones in Europe, a cut in conventional weapons and military spendings. The manifesto stresses the need for opposing this policy by all the democratic forces in Western Europe. The working people should put an end to the EEC's following in the footsteps of the insane policy of the Pentagon hawks.

USSR, AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES EXCHANGE CABLES

PM131239 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Greetings Telegrams"]

[Text] On the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Austria the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Republic of Austria have exchanged greetings telegrams.

The USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry telegram notes with satisfaction that the traditional relations of goodneighborliness and mutually advantageous cooperation which have grown up between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Austria accord with the fundamental interests of our countries' peoples and convincingly confirm the two states' adherence to the policy of international detente which is of special importance in the present seriously aggravated situation. Confidence is expressed that Soviet-Austrian relations will continue to develop successfully on the unshakable basis of the State Treaty and the status of permanent neutrality adopted by Austria.

The Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry in turn expressed satisfaction with the good, friendly, and fruitful relations which exist between the two countries, particularly since the conclusion of the State Treaty on the Restoration of an Independent and Democratic Austria. Confidence is expressed that cooperation between the neutral Republic of Austria and the Soviet Union will be further deepened in the future to mutual benefit, for the welfare of the Austrian and Soviet peoples, and in the interests of strengthened peace in Europe.

USSR, GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRIES EXCHANGE CABLES

PM091441 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Greetings Telegrams Exchanged"]

[Text] On 8 March, the USSR Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Ministry of the Hellenic Republic exchanged greetings telegrams on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Greece.

The USSR Foreign Ministry's telegram notes that relations between the two countries are rooted deep in history and are based on good traditions which are rich in numerous examples of fruitful cooperation between our peoples. Today the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems is materializing more fully and extensively in the stable progressive development of friendly and mutually advantageous ties between the Soviet Union and Greece in the political, trade, economic, scientific, and cultural spheres.

At the present time of serious exacerbation of international tension, constructive efforts and specific steps on the part of all states aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war, and at disarmament and the improvement of the world situation are more necessary than ever. A further expansion of Soviet-Greek cooperation, as has been noted in the course of high-level bilateral contacts in recent years, will undoubtedly promote the cause of consolidating peace and security in Europe and worldwide, and returning international relations to the path of detente and cooperation.

The Greek Foreign Ministry's telegram says that the relations between our two countries, which are based on historic and traditional ties between the two peoples, are developing, following an upward trend, and today embrace an extensive field of cooperation in many spheres.

This cooperation and the high-level bilateral meetings held in recent years attest to both states' desire to develop their relations further in the interests of strengthening peace and detente in Europe.

FURTHER ON ALIYEV VISIT TO SYRIA; COMMUNIQUE

'Satisfaction' With Talks

PM131639 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

["Soviet-Syrian Communique" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, was in Damascus 10-13 March 1984 on a working visit at the invitation of the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR].

G.A. Aliyev was received by H. al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Ba'th) Party and SAR president. In the course of conversations which took place in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding there was a detailed discussion of Soviet-Syrian relations and international questions, and particularly the Near East situation. G.A. Aliyev conveyed to President H. al-Asad a message from K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

G.A. Aliyev had talks with SAR Vice President 'A.H. Khaddam and a meeting with SAR Vice President R. al-Asad. A conversation also took place with 'A.R. al-Kasm, chairman of the SAR Council of Ministers.

In the course of the talks, both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady development and expansion of all-around relations between the Soviet Union and Syria, relations based on the firm foundation of the 8 October 1980 friendship and cooperation treaty, whose fruitfulness has been confirmed by the course of events. Both sides' aspiration to further strengthen Soviet-Syrian relations in various fields was stressed.

When examining the Near East situation, the sides noted that the situation in this region remains explosive. The reason for this situation is the U.S. Administration's adventurist course and practical actions and Israel's unceasing aggression. No longer confining itself to encouraging the expansionist aspirations of its Israel partner in the "strategic alliance," the United States has itself switched to direct interference in Arab states' affairs, up to acts of aggression on Lebanese soil.

The Soviet Union and Syria resolutely condemn the policy of Washington and Tel Aviv with respect to Lebanon, whose objective is to turn that country into an American-Israeli protectorate. The fundamental interests of the Lebanese people and the interests of peace in the Near East insistently demand the fulfillment of UN Security Council resolutions on the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. There must also be a total end to the interventionist actions of the United States and its NATO allies against this Arab country. An intra-Lebanese settlement is only possible on the basis of the preservation of Lebanon's unity, territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty.

The sides believe that the Lebanese Government statement on annulling the shackling agreement of 17 May 1983, imposed by the United States and Israel, is a great success for the peoples of Lebanon, Syria, and all Arab countries.

The determination of the sides to continue the joint struggle for the attainment of a comprehensive and just Near East settlement was confirmed. The Soviet Union values highly Syria's consistent stance in Near East affairs and its effective contribution to countering the American-Israeli attempts to compel the Arab peoples to accept the shackling terms of a settlement and to take the path of separate deals.

The sides exchanged opinions regarding the U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria. Support was expressed on the Soviet side for the stance of Syria which is opposing the intrigues of imperialism and Zionism and which is rejecting the blackmail and military pressure being used against it.

The Syrian side gave a high appraisal of, and expressed deep appreciation to, the Soviet Union -- a loyal and reliable friend of Syria and all Arabs -- for its invariable support for the Arab people's struggle for their legitimate rights and effective assistance to Syria in consolidating its defense capability in the face of the Israeli aggression and threats of imperialist interference.

A thorough exchange of opinions took place on questions relating to the state of affairs in the Palestine resistance movement, proceeding from the importance of the Palestinian factor in the struggle for a just and lasting peace in the Near East. It was reemphasized that the attainment of this goal is impossible without the implementation of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and to create their own independent state.

The Soviet Union and Syria are convinced of the need to preserve the unity of the Palestinian resistance movement and to overcome as speedily as possible the disagreements within the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine, on a progressive-patriotic and anti-imperialist basis. The sides believe that the implementation of the Palestinians' national aspirations is impossible without observance of the Palestine National Council's decisions aimed at countering the Israeli aggression and the Camp David policy of separate deals, including the "Reagan plan," and without close cooperation by the PLO with Syria, all progressive Arab states, and patriotic forces of the Arab world.

The sides noted that the deterioration in the general international situation and the growth of the threat of war are a direct consequence of the present U.S. Administration's militarist course, which is aimed at securing military superiority in order to attempt to dictate its will to other countries and peoples. G.A. Aliyev confirmed in this connection that the Soviet Union is fully determined not to allow this. It is doing and will continue to do everything in its power to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

The Syrian side stated its support for the Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy course and its efforts aimed at removing the threat of war from mankind, curbing the nuclear arms race, and improving the international situation.

The conversations and talks were held in the atmosphere of the friendship and mutual understanding that characterize the relations between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic. G.A. Aliyev expressed gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality extended to him during his stay in Syria.

Solomentsev Welcomes Aliyev

LD131542 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, returned today to Moscow from Damascus upon the completion of his working visit to Syria. At Moscow airport Comrade Aliyev was met by Comrade Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Comrade Maltsev, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR; Comrade Panyukov, first deputy minister of civil aviation; Comrade Kovalenko, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, and other officials. Among those who met Aliyev was Al-Halabi, ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the USSR.

Aliyev, Khaddam Cited

LD112329 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; special correspondent Farid Seyful-Mulyukov report from Damascus]

[Text] For many years now the people of Syria have been waging a brave struggle against the plots of imperialism and reaction and against the ceaseless aggression of Israel while steadfastly countering the pressure of military force applied by Washington and Tel Aviv. Israeli guns and missiles installed in the Golan Heights and in the Al-Biqa' Valley are aimed at Damascus. Only 50 km from here in Lebanon, Syrian soldiers and officers are courageously defending the interests of Arab nations under strikes from U.S. ships artillery and Israeli bombers.

Damascus actively supports the just cause of the Arab Palestinians and defends the independence and sovereignty of neighboring Lebanon while resolutely opposing separatist deals with the imperialists. Syria played an important role in the downfall of the fettering agreement imposed on Beirut by the United States and Israel. Damascus evaluated this event as a defeat for the Near East policy of the Reagan administration and a major success for the Arab patriotic forces.

Concern for a just and lasting peace in the Near East, close friendly cooperation in various areas have long linked Syria and the Soviet Union. One can see Soviet builders and oil drillers, eminent public figures and cosmonauts in ancient Damascus and in young towns of Syria. Constant consultations on topical international problems and various aspects of Soviet-Syrian cooperation have come to be an important factor in deepening friendly relations between our countries.

Damascus attaches great significance to the visit by Comrade Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. He has met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and has held talks with Foreign Minister Khaddam. The meetings and conversations of Comrade Aliyev in Damascus lie at the focus of attention of Syrian political circles and the mass media.

Here is what 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said to me:

[Begin Khaddam recording in Arabic with superimposed translation] Fruitful cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, is of important significance not only for the interests of our countries but also for all the forces of freedom, peace and progress in the Near East and also in the international arena. This cooperation strengthens our opposition to the aggressive policy of imperialism and Zionism. Friendship between the Syrian and Soviet people was tempered in the hearth of critical events in the region. Both Damascus and Moscow are doing all that is necessary to further consolidate relations between our countries. [end recording]

Visit Confirms 'Fruitful' Ties

LD121833 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Political observer Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] The reports you have heard testify to the fact that the situation in Lebanon and the whole Middle East continues to be complex and tense. The reasons for this are quite obvious: The military interference by the United States and its strategic ally, Israel, is not letting up.

The guns of the U.S. ships, as before, are aimed at Lebanese towns, torn to pieces by these very same guns, and the Israeli military not only occupied one-third of the territory of that long-suffering country but are also carrying out periodic tank raids into other regions of Lebanon and provoking sectarian clashes. All the same, one cannot help but see that Washington's and Tel Aviv's reliance on crude military force has failed. The annulment of the one-sided agreement with Israel, imposed on Lebanon by the United States, is clear testimony to this. Now even THE NEW YORK TIMES acknowledges that the United States and Israel have suffered serious setbacks in the Middle East because the demonstration of strength is not making an impression on those who are full of resolve to give a rebuff.

Among those who are giving a rebuff, Syria plays an important role. The fact that it is not yielding to imperialistic pressure is of great significance to the entire Arab liberation movement.

What position does the Soviet Union occupy in these conditions? This position was set out by Comrade Aliyev during his working visit to Syria. We are above all in favor of putting an end to the imperialist interference in the internal affairs of this region's countries and delivering it from the imperialist military presence. The Arab peoples must develop freely and independently along the path of their choice. This also applies fully to the Arab people of Palestine, who must receive the opportunity to realize their inalienable national rights, including that of creating their own independent state. The USSR is in favor of precisely this kind of just Middle East settlement, of peace finally prevailing there and of all the countries in this region being able to concentrate their attention and resources on the tasks of creation and progress. For its part, our country is prepared to develop cooperation with all the Arab states on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

An obvious example of such cooperation is Soviet-Syrian relations, whose fruitful nature has again been confirmed by the present visit of Comrade Aliyev. The Soviet Union will continue to be on the side of the just cause of the Arab nations -- their struggle against Israeli aggression and for freedom, independence and a just peace in the Middle East.

Syrian Press Cited

LD131943 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Vladimir Bilyakov]

[Text] The visit of Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to the Syrian Arab Republic has ended. During this visit he conducted talks with Syrian officials; President Hafiz al-Asad; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the vice-president; and 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister.

The Syrian press is widely reporting the Damascus talks and AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN, ATH-THAWRAH, and SYRIA TIMES point to the importance of the new Soviet-Syrian meeting in light of the recent events in the Middle East. ATH-THAWRAH headed its commentary: The Soviet-Syrian Friendship Is a Model of International Relations. It said that the Soviet Union's support for the just struggle of the Arabs is of great importance and that relations between the Soviet Union and Syria have expanded greatly in recent years, particularly following the signing of the Soviet-Syrian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 1980.

The Syrian paper said that these relations are developing on the basis of the joint struggle against the forces of imperialism and Zionism, which are trying to impose their domination in the Middle East and aggravate contradictions among Arabs by setting up blocs and signing separate deals.

The relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria are a deterrent factor to the designs of imperialism and Zionism. The great backing rendered by the Soviet Union to Syria helps to consolidate Syria's steadfastness and is greatly appreciated by the Syrian people. ATH-THAWRAH then said that Soviet-Syrian friendship has become a model of international relations based on respect and mutual benefit and the joint struggle for peace, security, and stability in the Middle East. The paper said that Geydar Aliyev's visit to Damascus is an important station on the road of developing friendship and cooperation between the two countries and that it has opened new scope for the struggle of the Arabs against imperialist-Zionist plans.

SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD131934 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video talk by Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm in Arabic with superimposed translation]

[Text] Relations between our countries have a rich historical experience. The treaty of friendship and cooperation is their firm foundation; it accords with the basic interests of Syria and the USSR. Our countries are doing everything to ensure that this mutually advantageous cooperation will grow and strengthen, will be filled with new and specific contents. We are satisfied with the way our links are developing in the economic, scientific-technical, and cultural spheres. Over the many years of cooperation between us, genuine friendship has grown between the Syrian and the Soviet peoples. We are deeply grateful to the great Soviet Union which firmly supports Syria both in its peaceful endeavors and in the struggle against the forces of imperialism and aggression.

The tradition has grown up that the statesmen of our countries constantly exchange opinions on current international problems. During Comrade Aliyev's meetings in Damascus with the Syrian leadership, we had all-round discussions on the situation in the Near East. The situation has been sharply exacerbated as a result of aggressive actions by the United States and Israel against the Arab peoples, and particularly against Lebanon and Syria. But this adventurist course has no prospects. The imperialists are suffering one defeat after another.

During our conversations we came to the joint conclusion that our views of the events taking place in this region coincide. The USSR highly assessed the firm position of Syria which resolutely opposes U.S.-Israeli plans in the Near East.

The USSR's policy aimed at preserving peace and curbing the forces of aggression meets with understanding in Syria and the other Arab countries. Our meetings in Damascus will promote the further consolidation of relations between the two countries.

ACTIVITIES OF TERESHKOVA IN SYRIA REPORTED

Meets Ba'th Official

LD121821 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 12 (TASS) -- The relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, between the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and between the two friendly peoples, have been added a new dimension following the signing of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between our countries, said deputy secretary-general of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar. He received chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee, first woman-cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. [Damascus Television in Arabic, on 11 Feb at 1830 GMT, in a similar report adds that, "Firyal al-Mahayni, president of the Syrian Women's Federation, and Dr Mary Mardini, head of the Women's Federation Foreign Relations Office, attended the meeting."]

The USA and Israel, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said, bear full responsibility for the aggravation of the situation in the Middle East, including Lebanon. Despite the escalation of the aggressive actions, however, aiming at establishing their domination in the region and making Lebanon their military base, their plans are doomed to failure because of the principled position of Syria and all the national-progressive forces.

Syria, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said, will, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, continue its course of resisting the lots of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. It will never give up its principles and positions, and will, in the process, rely on its own forces, and on the assistance and support from its friends led by the Soviet Union, the deputy secretary-general of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party further said.

On behalf of the party's leadership, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar expressed his satisfaction with the position of the Soviet Union which supports the just struggle of the Arab peoples for the liberation of the occupied territories and restoring to the Arab people of Palestine its lawful rights, including the right to self-determination and establishment of its own independent state.

Holds Press Conference 12 Mar

JN121407 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus -- Comrade Valentina Tereshkova, CPSU Central Committee member, chairwoman of the Soviet Women's Committee, and the first woman astronaut, has asserted the Soviet Union's high appreciation for Syria's national and pan-Arab position under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, a position that played an important role in abrogating the agreement of submission that was imposed on the Lebanese Government. This came during a press conference held by Comrade Tereshkova last night in which she emphasized her country's full and continued support for the struggle of the Syrian people and Syrian women against the imperialist and Zionist plans.

The first woman astronaut also explained the developed steps that Soviet women have made in all fields, and reviewed their great experiences and sacrifices, which they made for their country.

Comrade Tereshkova also stressed the existing close relations between the Committee of Soviet Women and the Syrian Women Federation, pointing to the exchange of expertise and ideas in the international and regional conferences and the joint activities of the Syrian and Soviet women in the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Concluding her press conference, Comrade Tereshkova praised the great accomplishments that were realized in Syria in recent years, and congratulated the Syrian people and Syrian women on the March revolution celebrations. She also praised the continued concern of the party and the state for Syrian women.

Ends Syria Visit 13 Mar

LD131108 Moscow TASS in English 1019 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 13 TASS -- A delegation of the Soviet Women's Committee led by its chairman Valentina Tereshkova, left Damascus for home today. The delegation took part in the work of the fourth congress of the General Federation of Syrian Women.

ARTICLE COMMEMORATES SYRIAN NATIONAL DAY

PM121039 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 8 Mar 84 p 3

[S. Pomerantsev article: "Syria: "Creation and Vigilance"]

[Excerpts] The Syrian people are today celebrating their national holiday, Revolution Day. 8 March 1963, when the Ba'th Party came to power, was an important date in the country's history. Since then, considerable changes in Syria's socioeconomic life have taken place. The National Progressive Front, created in 1972 with the participation of the Ba'th Party, the Communist Party of Syria, the Arab Socialist Union, and other parties, has announced a course of socialist transformation of society.

The antimilitarist course of Syria, which is in the vanguard of the struggle against Israeli aggression and against America's hostile policy to the Arabs in the Near East, has gained high prestige and recognition in the international arena. The USSR and the other socialist community countries, which give multifaceted support to the republic in the political and economic spheres and in strengthening its defense potential, are on the Syrian people's side in this just struggle.

Today more than half of the roughly 60 Soviet-Syrian cooperation projects have already been commissioned and are successfully working for the benefit of this friendly country's people. This firm economic base serves as a reliable foundation for Syria's policy of opposing the freebooting course of the United States and Israel in the Near East. The danger of new Israeli aggression and the unceasing threat from Washington are forcing Syria to be constantly on the alert and to divert considerable resources from peaceful construction to ensure its security. In these conditions the Syrian people rate highly the all-around support for its just cause given by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The republic is greeting its national holiday in the complex situation of imperialist pressure, threats, and direct provocations. The Syrian people's thoughts are directed toward peaceful construction. But equally great is their determination to resist the intrigues of the republic's enemies and attempts to force Syria to change its principled course. The Syrians know that they are not alone in the struggle.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR, U.S. THREAT TO GULF AREA VIEWED

PM131048 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[G. Musayelyan article "Extinguishing Fire... With a Flamethrower. What Is Happening in the Persian Gulf Area"]

[Text] Hostilities between Iran and Iraq are already in their 4th year. Reports from the battlefronts, as has been the case in the past too, are extremely contradictory. The Iranian command claims that its February offensive was crowned with success: Hundreds of kilometers of enemy territory were captured. Iraq denies all this, declaring: As a result of counterattacks, the Iranians have been pushed back to their starting positions. But there is no doubt about the fact that bloody battles are now being waged not only along virtually the whole length of the 1,200-km land border, but also in the Persian Gulf zone.

According to the latest reports from the Iraqi Military High Command, Iraqi forces have repelled several enemy attacks east of Basra. During the fighting the Iranian side suffered heavy losses of personnel, as well as hardware and arms. The Iranian news agency IRNA reports that Iranian forces are engaged in combat operations in the area of the Iraqi Majnun Islands where they have repelled a number of counterattacks. A large number of Iraqi servicemen have been killed. During the last 24 hours artillery duels continued between Iraqi and Iranian troops on various sectors of the front. Every new day brings colossal calamities and destruction to both sides and threatens the security of the entire region.

It should be emphasized that the senseless war is being waged between two neighboring states that share not only a very similar fate but also very similar socioeconomic tasks. And these objectively create favorable opportunity for rapprochement on the basis of common aims -- the struggle against the imperialist threat and the achievement of socioeconomic progress. But it is precisely this prospect that does not suit world imperialism headed by the United States, attracted, as if by a magnet, by the extremely rich oil deposits.

Resorting to the old methods of "divide and rule," imperialism is exacerbating the conflict between Iran and Iraq in every possible way. The conflict has arisen because of unsettled territorial problems deliberately bequeathed to both countries by their former colonizers. They concern differences over the definition of the border and the ownership of a number of islands in the Persian Gulf which go back to the distant past. The bourgeois and primarily the American press makes no mention of the possibility of removing the differences and solving the conflict peacefully. Instead there is any number of veiled incitements to mount a "crushing military offensive!" Incitements not merely in words but also in the form of weapons. U.S. arms worth hundreds of millions of dollars continue to be supplied to Iran, for instance. All this has induced an international observer to compare Washington's policy with the actions of the very peculiar firemen in R. Bradbury's novel "Fahrenheit 450" [as published]. Their job was to... cause fires!

Using the well-worn pretext of the "Soviet threat" and claiming U.S. "vital interests" everywhere, the U.S. Administration is pursuing a dual strategy. On the one hand it uses this war to justify its presence in the region, and on the other hand it regards it as a factor diverting attention from efforts to preserve the military superiority of its "strategic ally" Israel over its neighbors.

After all, having switched its attention to the war, Baghdad essentially no longer has a say in the resolution of pan-Arab tasks of counteracting Israeli aggression. Meanwhile in Iran the persecution of democratic forces, and primarily the Tudeh Party, is intensifying on a wave of religious fanaticism. This policy is leading to the antimonarchical revolution losing its principles and objectives and is being exploited by proimperialist forces in Iran for a rapprochement with people who until recently were branded as enemy number one.

Meanwhile Washington is implementing its long-standing plans for an intervention in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and strengthening its "rapid deployment force." This force is ready to be switched here on the first order from the recently set up Central Military Command.

In recent days a pretext for armed intervention has finally been found. The Iraqi Air Force carried out strikes against Iranian oil ports and Tehran retaliated, stating its intention to block the Strait of Hormuz through which oil tankers pass. The United States declared that any action aimed at closing the Strait of Hormuz will be interpreted as "a serious threat to U.S. interests and will therefore entail such corresponding measures as will be deemed necessary." True, Washington failed to specify what "U.S. interests" were meant. As for economic interests, the United States depends much less than other Western powers on fuel deliveries from the Persian Gulf zone. Thus Washington's imperial aspirations clearly prevail over all others.

In the northern part of the Indian Ocean there are now more than 30 U.S. warships with seaborne assault troops on board. Of these, five ships are in the Persian Gulf and most of the others, including the aircraft carrier Midway, are in the immediate vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz near the southern shores of Iran and the Arab Peninsula. Regular surveillance of the area is carried out by U.S. AWACS aircraft based in Saudi Arabia. The Gulf countries, and primarily Iran, are thus in the sights of the U.S. naval armada and also of British warships.

The threat of imperialist intervention hanging over the Persian Gulf once again insistently dictates the need to stop this war and to restore peace and tranquility here. Efforts by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and others have been channeled in this direction for a long time now.

From the very beginning of the war between Iran and Iraq, the Soviet Union has advocated that it be ended as speedily as possible, warning that the senseless bloodshed only plays into the hands of the imperialist forces. It is no accident that our country's initiatives for a peaceful settlement received no support in the West. As a recently published TASS statement emphasized, "the actions of the United States in the Persian Gulf area are creating a serious threat to peace and international security."

GULF WAR DOING 'GREAT DAMAGE' TO IRAN, IRAQ

LD131033 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1935 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] The fighting on the Iran-Iraq front is continuing. These are Iranian prisoners of war. Many of them, as you can see, are still just children. But they have to fight and sacrifice themselves in a senseless, fratricidal conflict. The war has ended for these youths. However, the battles on the Iran-Iraq front continue.

Especially fierce fighting has developed east of Basrah in the region of the Majnun Islands. Iranian units have dug in there, but Iraqi troops have been making a counterattack for several days, surrounding the Majnun Islands on three sides.

As the British REUTER agency reports, even by the standards of the Iran-Iraq war, in which hundreds of thousands of people have died, both sides are suffering very big losses in the latest battles.

The war is doing great damage to both states. It is also having a negative effect on the international situation. The continuing conflict is sowing discord among the Arab states. An extraordinary session of the Council of the Arab League at foreign minister level is to be held tomorrow in Baghdad. Only 15 members of the organization have agreed to participate inasmuch as the others support Iran. The ministers will undertake yet another effort to put an end to the bloody conflict, the continuation of which only serves imperialist forces.

The Reagan administration in particular is trying to use the war as a pretext to justify the buildup of its military preparations in the Persian Gulf area.

RYABOV-LED ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN IRAQ

LD130720 Moscow TASS in English 0657 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad March 13 TASS -- A Soviet delegation led by Ya. Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Relations, has arrived here to attend the session of the 14th permanent Soviet-Iraqi Commission for Economic and Scientific Technical Cooperation.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Subhi Yasin and other officials.

Economic Talks Begin

LD131044 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad March 13 TASS -- The 14th meeting of the permanent Soviet-Iraqi commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation opened here today. The Soviet side is headed by Y. Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and the Iraqi side by Subhi Yasin Khudayr, minister of industry and mineral resources. The meeting is discussing practical questions involved in the further development of mutually beneficial economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Further Reportage

For Iraqi coverage of the visit to Baghdad by Yakov Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his accompanying delegation, including reports on Ryabov's meeting with Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi, and a report on the 14th session of the Iraqi-Soviet permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation, see the Iraq section of the 13 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

U.S. 'URGENTLY DEVELOPING' NEW MIDEAST STRATEGY

LD132107 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Eduard Mnatsakanov]

[Text] We have got into a mess, and we have to get out of it eventually. This was said by William Lehman, member of the U.S. Congress House of Representatives, commenting on the failure of the U.S. Near East policy. This failure, writes THE NEW YORK TIMES, can be seen as a double blow for Secretary of State Shultz: It is a blow not only to the United States, but also to the policy personally worked out by Shultz, the aim of which was to use force to make the Syrians change their minds. Evidently, it is Shultz himself who has had to change his mind. In any case, the U.S. press is persistently writing about his possible resignation. They are writing, specifically, that in the event of a Reagan victory in the presidential elections, Shultz would probably concede his place to another person. In this respect the name of the not-unknown Henry Kissinger is being mentioned most often.

Anyway, as reported, the Reagan administration is now urgently developing a new Near East strategy. The new strategy envisages the establishment of even closer links by the United States with Israel and Jordan for the struggle against Syria. As you can see, there is nothing new at all in this new strategy: Split the Arab world into hostile groups, set some Arab countries against others. That was, and remains, the strategy of the American neocolonialists.

U.S. PRACTICING 'STATE TERRORISM' IN LEBANON

PM121141 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 8

[Stanislav Kondrashov "Political Observer's Opinion": "The Ambassador and Guns"]

[Text] Guns continue to boom and shells and bombs continue to explode in Lebanon, but the number of actors on a stage familiar to the whole world has diminished. "Multinational" soldiers have quit the ancient land where it appears to be time to change the emblem and show on the national flag, instead of the stout cedar, the silhouette of a man fiercely wiedling a flaming submachinegun. The French were the last to leave. Of the four members of the "Multinational Force" one would imagine three have been left with an unpleasant after-taste. They were only extras in a show staged by the fourth member, the United States, one, moreover, that bombed.

The French lingered so that this role would not be too obvious. They tried to gloss over and take the edge off their failure by proposing the dispatch of UN armed forces to Beirut to aid the "restoration of peace and the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon." Fine words, but Washington wants a situation where the presence of UN forces on land does not rule out the presence of its naval armada a little offshore and its "right" to subject Lebanese territory to artillery fire and aerial bombardment.

During the discussion of the French resolution in the Security Council Washington wanted continued U.S. intervention to be covered by the international organization's mandate. But it failed to pull it off. The Soviet Union voted against the resolution.

So the British, the Italians, and the French have withdrawn both soldiers and ships. But the Reagan administration, having transferred the Marines to ships, still has a powerful naval strike force offshore, threatening to hit Beirut and its environs at any moment. By what right? Imperialist, pure and simple. On what pretext? The same old one.

Since last September they have bombed and shelled on the pretext of protecting the U.S. Marines stationed near Beirut International Airport. The instant this pretext vanished another one took its place -- the protection of the American Embassy. Off the 6th Fleet are guarding the U.S. ambassador and his staff while they work and sleep.

Rejecting reports that the Americans are leaving, President Reagan says: "No, we are going to stay in the vicinity. Our Marines will continue to protect, as is the Marines' wont, our embassy and our embassy staff."

"Our rules permitting the initiation of combat actions," Secretary of State Shultz explained to senators, "extend beyond the protection of the Marines at the airport to cover other people."

Other people means other Americans. "Our rules" instead of international law.

Washington does not even bother with daily monitoring of the observance even of rules of this kind. It is up to the commander of the U.S. forces massed near the Lebanese coast when to commence and when to halt "combat actions." He can -- according to the aforementioned rules -- interfere in the armed struggle among the various factions of Lebanese society. For example, he can direct U.S. firepower at the neighborhood of the city of Suq al-Gharb, which is on the heights overlooking Beirut, if he believes the armed clashes involving the Lebanese in that region to be a threat to the U.S. ambassador's residence.

Unceremonious behavior by the U.S. imperialists has become so commonplace that it is as if one has become inured to it. But let us try to imagine every state in our uneasy world protecting its embassies with naval squadrons off foreign shores and squadrons of military aircraft in foreign skies. Whenever it sees fit. With so many squadrons around, what would remain of the "world order" of which the Washington politicians are posing as champions? What would this passionate concern for the safety of diplomatic personnel lead to? And isn't it better to evacuate an ambassador than to protect him with a hail of gunfire directed at the inhabitants of the country where he was sent to arrange good relations?

These naive questions are self-evident. But the answers to them are not restricted to the current Lebanese situation.

The ambassador protected by guns is just on illustration of unceremonious U.S. behavior and of U.S. arrogance. Washington has made a habit of placing itself above the generally recognized standards of international behavior and seeking superiority and exclusiveness, as well as the triumph of fist law, rather than equality with others. Security can only be strong and universal when it is collective, when it is safeguarded by everyone and in everyone's interests. The root of many of the problems of today's world lies, alas, in the fact that the Washington egocentrics want security not together with others but only for themselves, and even in spite of others. They want it but they cannot achieve it -- even for themselves -- because you simply do not make it that way.

By its actions, Washington is making people talk about terrorism as state policy. Apart from anything else, state terrorism is a breeding ground for, so to speak, conventional terrorism. Is it not U.S. state terrorism that spawns the "street" terrorists from whom Washington is intending to save its ambassadors and even its Marines through new acts of state terrorism?! Terrorism is unacceptable as a means of political struggle and deserves to be roundly condemned, although, in doing so, one must not forget who brought it into the world. Often it emerges as a desperate response by people who have been driven to despair by lawlessness and, essentially, by the criminal behavior of an imperialist power like the United States. Its foreign policy and its cynical reliance on force carry the seeds of wars and armed conflicts.

U.S.-ISRAELI POLICY IN LEBANON ASSAILED

PM131532 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Mar 84 p 3

[Political observer Sergey Losev "View of Events": "The Near East: Collapse of 'Gunboat Diplomacy'"]

[Text] The U.S. Marines are leaving Lebanon...USAF planes are still continuing their provocative flights over the positions of the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. The battleship New Jersey snarls fire from its heavy guns. The south of the country remains occupied by the Israeli Army. But all this cannot alter the fundamental fact that the Marines -- the weapon of intervention and the symbol of Yankee "gunboat diplomacy" -- have been forced to leave a small Arab country whose will for resistance and independence Washington and Tel Aviv have unsuccessfully tried and are still trying to smash.

Quite recently, after the U.S. expeditionary corps' "outing" to tiny Grenada, many foreign political observers came to the premature conclusion that the American people had entirely forgotten the bitter lessons of defeat in Indochina. But it turned out that this was not so. The Reagan administration is following the same extremely dangerous path that led the United States into war in Indochina, (P. Zastro), national coordinator of the "Vietnam Veterans Against War" organization, stated. Even now it is obvious that the question of the U.S. intervention in Lebanon will figure in the 1984 presidential elections. "This winter all attention has been focused on Lebanon," THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, "a problem which, as Republican strategists are saying, could 'erupt,' resulting in Reagan losing the elections."

There is, of course, a certain amount of exaggeration in that statement. However, the fact remains that not only have a number of Democratic Party presidential hopefuls thought it necessary to state their opposition to the administration's Near East course, but also certain influential Republicans, in particular R. Michel, leader of the Republicans in the House of Representatives, and Senator C. Mathias, have supported the demand for the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon. Moreover, even the Pentagon report on the causes of last October's explosion at the U.S. Marines headquarters in Beirut, blamed the White House for stressing "military efforts and not diplomacy" in its Near East policy.

After this explosion, coffins of American boys started arriving once again at U.S. ports, just like during the years of the Vietnam adventure. Consequently the White House decided not to run any risks in election year and the order was given for the Marines to return to the ships of the 6th Fleet: There are obviously still people in the U.S. capital who have not forgotten how in 1968, after a million-strong antiwar demonstration in New York, Lyndon Johnson withdrew his candidacy and refused to run for a second term as president.

The withdrawal was preceded by complex maneuvers by the Western powers in the Security Council; the idea behind them was to replace the "Multinational Force" with UN troops. The objectives that the United States and its closest allies were pursuing here remained unchanged. It was no accident that despite the accord reached in the course of preliminary consultations the French draft resolution did not include a paragraph prohibiting any further shelling and bombing of Lebanese territory by U.S. ships and aircraft. Moreover, the draft essentially made Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon dependent on the withdrawal of the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peace-keeping forces, which was sent into the country at the request of the legal Lebanese Government and in accordance with an Arab League decision. The draft was also specially lacking a paragraph prescribing the withdrawal of the 6th Fleet's ships from Lebanese shores.

Under these conditions the USSR was forced to use its right of veto and the Security Council resolution was not passed. Attempts to blame the Soviet Union for what happened are pointless, although this is precisely what certain people in Paris are trying to do. The culprits are those who to please Washington broke their own promises and the accords that had been reached, which created a real opportunity for approving a mutual resolution.

Now, naturally, the question arises: What else is going to happen? First, the Geneva talks on national reconciliation in Lebanon are soon to resume. It is not superfluous to recall in this connection that the first stage of these intercommunity talks failed through the fault of the United States and Israel, which carried out a whole series of provocations. Second, and this now is the main thing, after the Damascus talks President A. al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Government abrogated the shackling 17 May 1983 Lebanese-Israeli agreement, which was imposed on Lebanon by the United States under conditions of the occupation of the country by Israeli troops.

Lebanon annulled the unequal agreement despite pressure from the U.S. Administration and threats from the Israeli Government. Even during his visit to Washington last December Lebanese President A. al-Jumayyil sought amendments to this agreement, but returned empty-handed from the U.S. capital. Even his timid attempt provoked open threats from the Israeli expansionists. "If President al-Jumayyil," Israeli Prime Minister Shamir impudently stated, "abrogates the agreement with Israel, he will have no government.... There will be no Lebanon -- neither as an independent state, nor as Lebanon with President al-Jumayyil." After the annulment of the agreement Shamir repeated these threats. And as for Washington, it essentially took up a position of clearly encouraging the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the south of Lebanon.

However, as is well known, the 38th UN General Assembly session again reaffirmed the paramount importance of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is an indispensable condition for establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the Near East. Israel's entire policy and the practice of annexing the occupied Arab territories were declared illegal and assessed as a violation of international law. The assembly called on the UN states to immediately halt economic, financial, technical, and, especially, military aid, and also to refrain from delivering any types of weapons to Israel. The Assembly stressed that the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States jeopardizes Near East security and encourages Israel to pursue an aggressive and expansionist policy. To all intents and purposes the United Nations condemned the Reagan administration's entire Near East policy as a threat to peace and the peoples' independence.

The adoption of the Near East resolutions despite the U.S. delegation's furious opposition was a major political defeat for the United States. "It was a disgraceful vote. It was a disgraceful resolution," J. Kirkpatrick, the head of the U.S. delegation, stated indignantly. But, quite honestly, what else could the United States expect? After all, for many years Washington, together with its Israeli protege, has been challenging the international community. At the recent U.S.-Israeli talks the U.S. Administration promised to grant Israel $2.61 billion in fiscal 1984, $1.7 billion of this being in the form of so-called "gratuitous military aid." And this at a time when Israel is carrying out a policy of creeping annexation and continuing to site militarized settlements on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

Commenting on the reaction of the Arab East to the deepening of military cooperation between the Reagan administration and the Shamir government, London's THE TIMES stated with every justification that: "The U.S.-Israeli alliance makes those who consider Israel their enemy look the same way upon the United States." Even moderate and conservative Arab regimes dissociated themselves from this conspiracy.

With the aid of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement Washington and Tel Aviv wanted to turn Lebanon into their vassal and the Pentagon's military outpost in the Near East and get the shameful Camp David deal out of total deadlock. Now these plans have foundered. The Arab world is giving increasingly extensive support to the Soviet Union's initiative on convening an international conference on the Near East with the participation of all the directly interested parties.

Whatever U.S. imperialism and Zionism do, it is impossible to destroy the 4-million-strong Arab people of Palestine or wipe them from the face of the earth. They, like every other people, have a complete right to self-determination and the creation of their own state, as stipulated by UN resolutions. Only on the road of satisfying the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine can a just and lasting settlement in the Near East be reached, a settlement that will ensure the independent existence and development of all states and peoples of this explosive region.

ANNULMENT OF 17 MAY AGREEMENT APPLAUDED

PM131724 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 11 14 Mar 84 p 9

[Igor Belyayev "Viewpoint": "Have They Killed Lebanon? No, Camp David!")

[Text] At first glance, such a thing seems simply incredible. Indeed, how has the American battleship New Jersey, which was shelling Lebanon, killed Camp David? Killed it! Let us ponder a very significant fact -- Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has annulled (and, after the Lebanese Parliament's approval of the 17 May agreement with Israel and the United States, he alone could do so!) the Lebanese-Israeli-American "peace" agreement precisely after President Reagan stepped up his war against Lebanon. The battleship New Jersey, which personifies American military might brought to bear on a small Arab country, plays a sinister and, I would say, an awe-inspiring role in this war. And now, instead of raising their hands, the Lebanese and Palestinians have resisted. Internal Lebanese contradictions have intensified as a result of Washington's interference: The U.S. President gambled on one religious community -- which provoked opposition from the country's other communities -- Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims, Druze, and even orthodox Christians.

Backed by Syria's assistance, the leaders of those who rose up against Reagan's war -- the Druze Walid Junblatt and the Shi'ite Nabih Birri -- put forward a demand for the resignation of Al-Jumayyil, Lebanon's current president, in addition to the annulment of the hated Lebanese-Israeli-American "peace" agreement concluded according to the Camp David prescription.

To save himself, the Maronite A. al-Jumayyil undertook the annulment of the agreement and rapprochement with Syria. Even earlier he had witnessed the departure from Beirut of not only the American Marines but also the British and Italian soldiers. Cheysson, France's minister of external relations, recently warned that the French paratroops cannot singlehandedly represent the so-called "Multinational Force" in Lebanon.

It seems that the annulment of the shackling and plainly unlawful agreement of 17 May 1983 is in its way an outstanding event. It is essentially the first time that an Arab country which has been subjected to Israeli-American aggression and occupation has rejected the "peace" imposed on it. For Israel what has happened is a reminder that its diktat "does not work," despite overwhelming superiority in military strength and its occupation of southern Lebanon. For the United States the annulment of the 17 May agreement -- which Washington foisted on President al-Jumayyil with special persistence in the hope that it would be a precursor to the capitulation of all Arabs -- was a crushing military and political defeat in the Near East. Let us recall -- this after Reagan's "great victory" in Grenada. The American Marines' flight from Beirut has been followed by a political downfall in the region -- which will, of course, affect the election campaign in the United States itself. Little Arab Lebanon and its national patriotic forces have managed to stand up for themselves. I am convinced that the repercussions of what has happened will be great. And not only in the Near East. Of course, not in favor of Israel and the United States, but in favor of those who are struggling for freedom and independence.

Might "countermeasures" follow against Lebanon? I would not rule them out. Perhaps, inter alia, the intensification of the American and Israeli wars against Lebanon and even Syria, which plays a decisive role in the confrontation with Israel and the United States. However, the political moment for kindling these wars is unfavorable for both Prime Minister Shamir and President Reagan. The former understands that the activation of the "longest" war in Lebanon threatens new Israeli dead. And the further intensification of the antiwar struggle in Israel, whose economy has long been overstretched and could finally explode. Today it is possible to speak of the birth of "another Israel." It already exists! In addition, new elections to the Knesset are coming up, and Shamir cannot lose them. For him, losing these elections would be equivalent to fading into political nonexistence.

President Reagan, too, is in a rather complex position. The battleship New Jersey has shot up not only the Lebanese but also his chances for reelection. I am not speaking of the aluminum coffins containing dead American Marines. Their reappearance in the United States is an appalling event in the sense that Vietnam might be repeated.

Now about another aspect of what has happened. People in the world are already speaking and writing about a sharp turn and even a determined retreat "from Israel." What is meant is the appreciable change in the feeling of world public opinion against the "longest" war in Lebanon, the carnage in Sabra and Shatila, and the orgy of totally unjustified atrocities rained down upon the Lebanese and the Palestinians by the Israeli army.

As a result, Israel has ceased being "the victim of bloodthirsty Arabs" supposedly seeking to destroy the Jewish state and has itself become the destroyer in the region. I would now like to put this question: Will Israel itself not destroy the basis on which it was created in 1948?

Let us put the question more widely. Israel's military-political establishment is still reluctant to heed the nature of things in the Near East. However, the logic of the development of events in the region is such that it is necessary to approach a settlement not by way of Camp David but by way of talks involving all the interested sides, including the PLO. And the annulment of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli-American agreement, which was pretentiously called a "peace agreement," is a worthy example for emulation. And I believe that this is precisely how it has been perceived throughout the Arab world.

USSR-LIBYA SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION MEETINGS HELD

LD130014 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1533 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 12 March TASS -- Standardization and meteorology, fixation and afforestation of sand, use of solar energy, hydrometeorology -- such is the range of subjects included in the program of scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and Libya, reported Aleksandr Bliznakov, deputy head of a department of the USSR State Committee on Science and Technology, to a TASS correspondent. "It received practical development after the signing in 1972 of an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries," he said.

"The intergovernmental Soviet-Libyan commission on matters concerning the development of economic and scientific-technical cooperation, as well as trade, has been an effective instrument in regulating interrelations of Soviet and Libyan organizations. Set up within its framework was the Soviet-Libyan subcommittee on scientific-technical cooperation, at whose sessions there is discussion of matters concerning the further broadening of contacts between scientists and specialists.

The 1983-1984 program of scientific-technical cooperation plans an exchange of delegations of scientists and specialists, and of literature. It is planned to organize a series of lectures on various scientific problems, in particular on drilling boreholes in oil and gas deposit areas, on transport organization and oil products processing.

Our Libyan colleagues are interested in the experience of Soviet specialists in the use of mineralized water and the afforestation of sand. At the present time the question has arisen of expanding the meteorological program. During its visit to the USSR the Libyan delegation learned about the organisation of the weather service in the country, the measurement of solar radiation and the weather forecast system.

Bliznakov said that the next meeting of participants in the Soviet-Libyan subcommittee on scientific and technical cooperation would be this year in the USSR.

ETHIOPIAN MINISTER DENIES SOVIETS EXPELLED

LD131313 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa March 13 TASS -- Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde strongly denied the allegations of Western propaganda about the "expulsion" of two Soviet diplomats from the country. Addressing a press conference here, he characterized those reports as "a malicious and perfectly groundless falsehood."

The purpose of these rumours floated by the Western mass media is to distort and smear the marvellous relations between the peoples of Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, the foreign minister said. To all appearances, the authors of this provocative invention are trying to use it to distract attention from the actual expulsion of five American spies from Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIA DECRIES U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SUDAN

PM131448 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Massive Weapons Shipments"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 12 Mar -- Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde has resolutely denounced the recent massive transfer of modern arms from the United States to Sudan. Speaking at a press conference here, he stated that the creation of this "air bridge" graphically attests to the existence of a Washington-Khartoum axis aimed at encroaching on Ethiopia's independence and undermining its territorial integrity. The feverish transfer of U.S. weapons to Sudan also shows that the Khartoum government has no sincere desire to participate in a constructive dialogue on normalizing relations between the two neighboring states. For its part, Goshu Wolde stressed, Ethiopia again confirms its desire to live in peace with Sudan on the basis of respect for the principles of national unity and territorial integrity. However, it will never submit to imperialist blackmail and under the existing conditions it considers it inadvisable to hold the conference between the two countries' foreign ministers scheduled for today in Nairobi.

On his return from Washington at the end of last week, Sudan's First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib officially reported the creation of an "air bridge" between the two countries for urgent shipments of U.S. weapons to Sudan.

MENGISTU RECEIVES USSR TRADE DELEGATION

LD131521 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1917 GMT 12 Mar 84

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Gavrielyan]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 12 Mar (TASS) -- Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE), today received Vladimir Lakhtin, deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, who is leading a visiting Soviet trade and economic delegation that includes the leaders of various USSR ministries and departments. Its members [words indistinct] with their Ethiopian counterparts, ways to deepen and expand cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, water and mineral resources, and power generation.

As was emphasized at the meeting, Ethiopia's efforts in economic and social development are aimed primarily at raising the population's standard of living. Of great importance in this respect will be the 10-year long-term economic construction plan, the drafting of which is nearing completion. The Soviet Union will give Ethiopia assistance in implementing many of the goals set by this plan.

ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES CPSU DELEGATION

PM121420 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] Lusaka, 7 Mar -- Zambian Prime Minister N. Mundia yesterday received a CPSU delegation headed by O.S. Miroshkhin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, which is here.

N. Mundia rated highly the Soviet Union's aid to Zambia and other African states in achieving independence. He also emphasized the USSR's big contribution to the struggle to liberate Namibia and to abolish apartheid in the Republic of South Africa. Zambia, the prime minister said, advocates the development of cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. The exchange of party delegations and familiarization with experience of party building in the USSR are of inestimable benefit to the practical activity of the United National Independent Party (UNIP) of Zambia.

The CPSU delegation's visit is taking place in accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and UNIP.

ANTIREGIME ANGOLANS SAID ACTIVE IN U.S.

LD131034 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Maxim Knyazkov reports:

Francisco Lubota, chief of the anti-Angolan grouping -- Front for the Liberation of Cabinda Enclave, has visited the capital of the United States the other day. The anti-Angolan grouping, which is actively supported by the Western imperialist powers, aims at severing the oil rich Cabinda Province from the People's Republic of Angola. The local observers evaluate the entry visa granted to Lubota by the United States authorities as evidence of the fact that the United States ruling circles are intensively examining plans for the capture of oil fields and turning them over to the Western monopolies. Thus, following the pattern of its actions in other areas of Africa, Washington hopes to deal telling blows to the republic's economy.

Speaking in an interview with the newspaper WASHINGTON TIMES, the chief of the anti-Angolan grouping laid special emphasis on the separatist plans and declared for broadening cooperation with the United States private capital on an anti-communist basis.

Lubota is not the only representative of the Angolan counter-revolution to have recently visited to the United States. Staying in the USA is Holden Roberto, the chief of the FNLA [National Forces for the Liberation of Angola] terrorist grouping. He is holding talks on a widening of military and political aid from Washington. A permanent representation of the bandit UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] grouping openly functions there.

Lubota and Roberto have made statements here openly advocating the knocking together of a "united front" of the Angolan counterrevolution with the aim of stepping up subversive activities against the People's Republic of Angola.

S. AFRICA LINKS NAMIBIA, CUBAN WITHDRAWAL ISSUES

LD130015 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] The West's mass media today launched an extensive propaganda campaign to publicize the so-called new peace-making initiative by the Pretoria regime. South African Prime Minister Botha has proposed the convening of a regional peace conference on the problems of South-West Africa. The racist authorities allegedly want to display their goodwill. However, in fact their proposal is nothing but another political maneuver intended to delay a solution of the Namibia problem. It is a continuation of the same notorious policy of linking a settlement in Namibia with the presence of Cuban servicemen in Angola.

With the help of its American patrons Pretoria is striving to put pressure on the Government of People's Angola with demands not only for the withdrawal of the Cuban contingent but also for the legalization of the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] separatist band. The South African Government is insisting that the leaders of this terrorist group, who are to all intents and purposes Pretoria's agents, also take part in the holding of the proposed conference. It is demanding that the so-called Namibian internal parties take part in it. In other words the racists would like to put the rights of their puppets on an equal footing with those of SWAPO, the South-West African People's Organization, which it is generally acknowledged represents the overwhelming majority of the people of Namibia.

As you know, the world community considers that a genuine settlement in Namibia requires implementation of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council, which provides for the withdrawal of South African troops from the territory they are occupying and the holding of genuinely free elections there under UN supervision.

As for the South African proposals, their purpose, as is admitted by THE NEW YORK TIMES, is to remove the UN from involvement in the process of a settlement, to bypass Resolution 435 and to solve the problem on Pretoria's terms.

GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, USSR TIES NOTED

PM121533 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Candidate of Historical Sciences V. Rasnitsyn under the rubric "Today Is the Republic of Ghana's National Holiday -- Independence Day": "The Road to Renewal"]

[Text] Exactly 27 years ago, on the night of 5-6 March, a red, yellow, and green flag with a five-pointed black star in the middle was run up the flagstaff in the center of Accra -- the capital of the former British colony of the Gold Coast. The sovereign state of Ghana, whose people were the first in tropical Africa to achieve independence, appeared on the map of the world.

Free Ghana,.overcoming difficulties and the intrigues of the Western monopolies, embarked on the path of the struggle for a bright future. The progressive transformations begun by Kwame Nkrumah, the outstanding figure in the national liberation movement, were given a hostile reception by reactionary forces.

In 1966 the local reaction, at the instigation and with the support of imperialist circles, overthrew the progressive Nkrumah government. The young state was put back on the path of capitalist development, which brought the country to complete economic collapse.

Regimes came and went in Ghana with the military replacing the civilians in power and vice versa, but the state of the country remained desperate. The practice of neo-colonialism was especially vividly manifested there: The policy of transnational corporations aimed at extracting the maximum profit from Ghana's poorly developed economy drove the republic's economy into an impasse. The situation in the country was exacerbated by the corruption, extortion, and bribery rife in the upper echelons of power.

Under these conditions the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) headed by J. Rawlings which came to power in the country 2 years ago set about improving political and economic life in the country. The path of overcoming existing difficulties is an extremely complex one. However, the PNDC is making great efforts to solve the problems facing the country. Local people's committees for the defense of the revolution which actually participate in implementing PNDC measures are of considerable help in this. The state apparatus is being purged of people who block the resolution of the tasks facing the country. The republic's leadership is making efforts to establish the smooth running of industrial enterprises and measures to renew the country's agriculture are being implemented. A struggle is being persistently waged to reduce the prices of basic goods and the activity of food speculators is being stopped.

However, the state of affairs in the country's economy has still not stabilized. Last year there was a poor harvest because of drought and fires. The country is short of electricity. The work of industrial enterprises is being disrupted. Export earnings from cocoa beans, gold, timber, bauxite, and manganese have dropped. The country's leadership is aware of the reasons behind the current difficulties and is seeking ways to overcome them. This is clear from various statements by PNDC members and specifically the recent appeal to the people by its chairman, J. Rawlings, in which he called on Ghana's population to increase labor efficiency and combat mismanagement.

In the foreign policy sphere Ghana adheres to a course of nonalignment and the development of inter-African cooperation. "We will continue," J. Rawlings stated in his appeal to the people, to "develop close cooperation with neighboring countries and make our contribution to the strenghtening of economic and political relations in our region and throughout the African Continent. Our adherence to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement remains unchanged."

Last year the Soviet Union and Ghana marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which have recently received a new boost. A number of national economic projects are being constructed in Ghana with our country's help, and assistance is being provided in training national cadres. The republic highly values cooperation with the USSR. "The distinctive feature of this cooperation," the newspaper THE GHANAIAN TIMES stressed, "is the emphasis on the state sector of the economy. Unlike the imperialist states, which erect customs barriers to block exports from the developing countries, the Soviet Union trades with these countries on an equal rights basis."

In overcoming their numerous difficulties Ghana's people are following the path of changes, moving toward the achievement of genuine political and economic independence. And on this path they will always meet with the aid and support of the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, and all the planet's progressive forces.

U.S. ROLE IN UPCOMING SALVADORAN ELECTIONS VIEWED

LD130031 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Viktor Olin commentary]

[Excerpts] The so-called presidential elections in El Salvador scheduled for March 25 are drawing nearer.

It's natural that under the circumstances, El Salvador's opposition forces are compelled to boycott the elections, because in conditions of unprecedented political violence, any person casting his vote in favor of the insurgents would face immediate arrest, torture, and death. Nevertheless, the leaders of the liberation movement have declared that their armed forces will not interfere with the voting, and will refrain from raiding polling stations.

Despite the predictable outcome of the election farce, the Reagan administration intends to use it as a confirmation that democracy has triumphed in El Salvador. The purpose of all this is to make Congress allocate an additional $100 million in the form of emergency military aid to El Salvador's regime, that is to the leaders of the death squads. In other words, it's going to give another incentive to rightwing terror to which an estimated 40,000 Salvadorans have fallen victim in the past few years.

At the same time, on the pretext of fighting the mythical communist threat, Washington is planning a series of military demonstrations in and around El Salvador. According to the Defense Department U.S. troops stationed in Honduras will be shifted to El Salvador's border to stage military maneuvers directly on the threshold of presidential elections. In the meantime, the Central Intelligence Agency has worked out a plan under which U.S. combat planes without markings will make regular flights for the purpose of discovering positions taken by the insurgents, and firing on them. American reconnaissance helicopters are already making arrangements for these flights.

Such is the progress for preparations for presidential elections in El Salvador which, according to the Reagan administration, will represent a milestone in the promotion of democracy in that blood-soaked country.

U.S. 'Ready' To Interfere

LD130022 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Excerpts] The training of 2,000 American Marines for an invasion of El Salvador is under way. The pretext for this is to be the maneuvers the Pentagon is organizing on the Honduran-Salvadoran border. The American Marines are being joined by several thousand Honduran servicemen. A question from a correspondent as to whether the Armed Forces might cross the Salvadoran border was cynically answered by a State Department spokesman by asking where the border was.

Washington fears a fresh offensive by the patriotic forces, which will lead to the complete breakdown of the staging of so-called elections in El Salvador scheduled for 25 March. In order to safeguard the staging of this farce the Americans are ready to resort to armed interference. It seems the Reagan administration has not benefited from its Lebanese lesson.

Joint Maneuvers Planned

LD132327 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Petr Fedorov]

[Text] There are less than 2 weeks to the so-called democratic elections in El Salvador, the scenario for which was worked out by Washington. As is known, in order to ensure the mass nature of this farce, the repressive regime issued a decree threatening anyone with harsh punishment who does not appear at the voting booths and gets the relevant stamp in his cedula. They are preparing for the Salvadoran elections in Washington as well. A large operational-tactical formation of the U.S. Navy headed by the aircraft carrier America is awaiting the signal to depart for the Salvadorean coast. The transfer to Honduras of 2,500 U.S. soldiers has already begun. Tomorrow, joint U.S. Honduras maneuvers begin in the immediate vicinity of the Salvadoran border. And in the (?2) days) before the elections, the U.S. Army is to stage a training exercise in airborne landings in the area of Honduras airport, which is situated not far from the Salvadoran border. The aim of the war games is to again demonstrate Washington's all-round support for the antipopular regime in El Salvador and to frighten the people of that much-suffering country.

However, despite the blackmail and threats, the people of El Salvador have no intention of laying down their arms. As the insurgents' radio station Venceremos reports, detachments of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front are attacking the regime's troops in virtually all regions of the country. The most stubborn battles against the punitive troops trained by U.S. military advisers are being waged in Usulutan, San Vicente, and Morazan Departments.

VOROTNIKOV MEETS WITH CUBA'S RAMIRO VALDES

LD120235 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1635 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar [TASS] -- Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, today received Ramiro Valdes, member of the Central Committee Politburo of the Cuban Communist Party, deputy chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers, and minister of the interior. A conversation took place in a cordial, friendly atmosphere.

REACTION, U.S. ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE BOLIVIA

PM140911 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 5

[R. Tuchnin article under the headline: "Latin American 1984": "Troubled Days in Bolivia"]

[Excerpts] Clouds are gathering again on Bolivia's political horizon. Just over a year ago, when the constitutional rights of the left-wing Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] bloc, which includes the Communist Party of Bolivia, were restored, it seemed that the country had at last broken out of the vicious circle of continual coups d'etat and would be able to heal the serious wounds inflicted by the prolonged rule of the local military. However, judging by appearances, internal reaction has no intention of laying down its arms and is trying to reverse the process of progressive transformations that have begun.

The gloomy events of 1980 are still fresh in Bolivians' memory. Siles Zuazo, the UDP candidate, was about to take up the post of president of the republic following his election success when another military coup barred his way to power.

Bolivia's present government has declared that it is totally resolved to pull the economy out of the quagmire of crisis and continue the democratization of the country and the implementation of progressive socioeconomic transformations. It endeavors to eliminate hunger and mass illiteracy; it has considerably increased the working people's wages; it has enabled workers to take part in the management of the state-run (Comibol) ore-mining company, and removed many reactionary officials from their posts.

But time is needed to overcome the difficulties inherited from military regimes. However, the government's opponents have no intention of granting it. Keeping quiet about who is to blame for the people's current economic troubles, they are attacking the Siles Zuazo government from various angles.

The term "destabilization" has become firmly established in the Latin American vocabulary; it describes the methodical undermining of a regime that does not suit reaction by means of a whole range of subversive actions. The complicated and tense situation in Bolivia clearly confirms this definition.

The generals and lower ranks, having lost their posts in the Army, and with them large incomes from the criminal trafficking in narcotics, are secretly conspiring. The right-wing bourgeois politicians who were removed from power after the elections have dug in in the Congress, whence they shoot poisoned arrows at the government. The two groups are literally vying with each other in their attacks on the UDP, and do not shrink from deliberate slander or the dissemination of false rumors. The aim of all these antigovernment attacks is to undermine the people's confidence in the authorities and to present matters in such a way as to indicate that only a new regime -- of an extremely reactionary and dictatorial type, of course -- can "save the country from chaos."

The right's offensive against the government is not confined to words. Paramilitary fascist gangs, in association with the ultrareactionary military, continually organize bombings and attempts on the lives of representatives of left-wing parties and organizations and rob banks and stores to procure money to purchase the contraband weapons abroad they need for political brigandage. Quite recently, the security services uncovered underground terrorist headquarters and confiscated numerous weapons and forged documents.

The Bolivian oligarchy is also ever more actively joining in the subversive activities. To begin with, its representatives, who had secured commanding positions in the confederation of private businessmen, tried to discredit the government through all kinds of false accusations. Then they openly embarked on sabotage and decided to close down their enterprises for 48 hours. Soon afterwards, egged on by right-wing politicians, motor transport owners organized a "general strike."

The United States is not standing idly by either. Although Washington officials have expressed verbal opposition of sorts to the establishment of a military dictatorship in the country, they are in fact contributing their share to the destabilization of the situation. Not so long ago, E. Corr, the U.S. ambassador in La Paz, impertinently interfering in Bolivia's internal affairs, described the local obligarchy as the "guarantor of democracy," not unintentionally setting it up against the state sector of the economy. The United States is exerting increasing pressure on the country via the IMF, which is demanding that economic and social measures adopted by the government in the interests of the working people be cancelled. In turn, the U.S. "big press" let it be known that the participation of communist ministers in the Bolivian Government is not to Washington's liking.

You cannot fail to recall the Chilean reaction's multi-pronged onslaught on the Government of National Unity in Chile. The hounding of Salvador Allende unleashed by the rightwing in Congress! The terrorist actions by the fascist gang "Partria i Libertad." The "strike" of freight transport owners. The U.S. refusal to grant credits designed to aggravate the country's economic difficulties. And finally, the secret conspiracies of the military which ended in Pinochet's bloody coup.

Yesterday Chile, today Bolivia. Although the political situation in the former and the latter is not the same, and the distribution and correlation of forces are different, internal and external reaction are resorting to the self-same, sinister, and destructive method described as "destabilization."

According to latest reports from La Paz, the situation in Bolivia remains very tense. Rumors about the possibility of a coup d'etat abound. The EFE news agency reports that the Bolivian workers' center has declared a general mobilization of the working people. A statement by its leadership says: Steps will be taken to counter the actions "of the right-wing groupings and the military seeking to seize power."

The Communist Party of Bolivia is urging all left-wing forces to strengthen their unity to bar reaction's path and uphold the process of democratic transformations.

COMMITTEE EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH GRENADA

LD121436 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- The Soviet Committee for Solidarity With the Peoples of Latin America has issued a statement pointing out that Soviet people express solidarity with the just cause of the people of Grenada, wrathfully stigmatize the U.S. imperialist aggression against that country, and resolutely demand that all troops of the aggressor be withdrawn from Grenadian territory. The Soviet people, just as all people of good will, comes out in favour of immediate release of the patriots who languish in jails and in support of the daughters and sons of the long-suffering land of Grenada who struggle for their national independence, freedom and social progress.

BRIEFS

CUBAN TELEVISION, RADIO COOPERATION -- A working protocol was signed in Moscow today on cooperation in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting between the USSR State Committee for Radio and Television for 1984-85. It envisages the further development of exchanges of television and radio material on the life of the USSR and Cuba, on the fraternal friendship of the peoples of the two countries. The document was signed by Comrade Lapin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and by Comrade Herrera, chairman of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Mar 84 LD]

VOROTNIKOV ADDRESSES MOSCOW EDUCATION MEETING

PM140913 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Mar 84 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "The Tasks of Higher Education"]

[Text] A joint enlarged session of the Collegium of the RSFSR Ministry of Higher Secondary Specialized Education and the Presidium of the RSFSR Committee of the Education, Higher Schools, and Scientific Institutions Workers' Union was held in Moscow 29 February. Its participants discussed the tasks of RSFSR higher education in the light of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenum decisions.

The session noted the need to step up ideological educational work with students, improve the quality of the training of specialists, and strengthen ties among VUZes, scientific institutions, and production.

V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, addressed the session. The following participated: G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; S.G. Shcherbakov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Institutions Department; Academician A.P. Aleksandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and executives of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR and RSFSR ministries and departments.

GRISHIN ADDRESSES MOSCOW LABOR AWARD MEETING

PM131109 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "High Assessment of Muscovites' Labor"]

[Excerpts] A ceremonial meeting of the party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol aktiv together with representatives of working people's collectives devoted to the presentation of the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee to Moscow City was held yesterday in the Oktyabr movie theater.

The meeting was opened by R.F. Dementyev, secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

The Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee was presented to working people's representatives by I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The meeting was addressed by V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

The meeting was addressed by Yu.A. Adeyev, party committee secretary at the Moscow Znamya Truda machine building plant; L.A. Alekeyenko, sewing machine operator at the Moskva sewn goods production association; Hero of Socialist Labor I.F. Isakov, joiners' team leader at the No 3 wood processing combine of the Moscow City Soviet Main Administration for the Construction Materials and Components Industry; I.V. Vorotyntsev, director of a jig-boring machine tool plant; B.F. Skvortsov, engineer at the Moscow railroad's Likhobora locomotive depot; and Doctor of Technical Sciences A.P. Kirillov, deputy chief of a scientific research sector of the S.Ya. Zhuk Gidroproyekt Institute.

The participants in the ceremonial meeting adopted with great enthusiasm a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee.

Taking part in the meeting's work were L.A. Borisov, I.N. Ponomarev, and V.P. Trushin, secretaries of Moscow Gorkom; and V.I. Konstantinov, an instructor at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department.

I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, took the floor. On the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee he cordially congratulated those new labor successes. To tumultuous applause I. V. Arkhipov presented representatives of the city's working people with the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee, which Moscow has been awarded for the successes achieved in socialist competition in 1983.

The capital's working people, V.V. Grishin said in his speech, greeted the news of the award of the Challenge Red Banner to Moscow with great enthusiasm. This lofty award which is today presented to our city has been conferred on Moscow for its achievement of high results in the All-Union Socialist Competition and for the successful fulfillment of the economic and social development plans in 1983. On behalf of the Moscow Gorkom and all the city's working people the speaker expressed his profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee for their high assessment of Muscovites' labor and for their constant concern for the capital's development.

The award to Moscow of the Challenge Red Banner is recognition of the great labor contribution of workers, engineers, technicians, scientists, and all the city's working people of the implementation of the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and to the fulfillment of the 5-year plan targets.

Moscow's working people, like all Soviet people, wholly and fully approve and support the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy and the multifaceted activity of the Central Committee and its Politburo in strengthening the country's economic and defense might, enhancing the people's prosperity, and strengthening worldwide peace.

A great contribution to implementing this party course was made by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, whose untimely death caused profound sorrow in the heart of every Soviet person.

On 13 February an extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee was held which unanimously and with great enthusiasm elected Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The capital's Communists and working people wholly approve the decisions of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and express their profound satisfaction with the election of Comrade K.U. Chernenko to the lofty and responsible post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and their firm conviction that under his leadership the Communist Party and the CPSU Central Committee will continue to strive for the country's confident forward movement in all avenues of economic and social progress.

The plenum materials are orienting working people toward a further intensification of production, accelerated implementation of the achievements of science and technology, a strengthening of organization and order, and an improvement and restructuring of the system of managing the economy -- that is to say, toward resolving the key, fundamental issues in the life of the party and country.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speeches at the plenum and the funeral meeting clearly stressed the continuity of our party's political course, its fidelity to Marxism-Leninism, and the need to strengthen the party's unity with the people, develop and guide the masses' creative activity, rally them in terms of ideology and organization, and heed the utterances coming from the people's masses and the forefront of socialist building.

The speeches noted that the supreme goal of party policy was, is, and will be concern for the good of man.

In response to the party's concern to strengthen the motherland's economic and defense might and enhance the people's prosperity. V.V. Grishin stressed, Muscovites are redoubling their efforts in the struggle to fulfill the targets of the 11th 5-Year Plan and enhance production efficiency and work quality in all components of the economy and management and are striving to make the utmost contribution to the cause of the whole people.

Last year, 1983, was marked by significant labor achievements. Through shock labor and by strengthening discipline and organization, Moscow's working people supported party policy and came up with a whole series of patriotic undertakings and initiatives, which did much to promote the achievement of greater heights and enhanced indicators at work. A vivid manifestation of Muscovites' high labor and political activeness last year is the fact that over 500,000 workers completed fulfillment of the tasks for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan ahead of schedule. The annual plan for industry was fulfilled 27 December and hundreds of millions of rubles worth of output was produced above the plan. Great work was implemented to enhance the technical standard and quality of output. The plan targets for the retooling of production were fulfilled.

Noting the successful work of all sectors of the city's economy, V.V. Grishin stressed that it is the result of organization, high awareness, a broad development of creative activeness, the creation of an atmosphere of implacability toward shortcomings in most of the city's labor collectives, and their desire to fulfill the tasks set by the Communist Party in the field of further developing the socialist economy.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee, after examining the results of the All-Union Socialist Competition in 1983, gave due credits for the successes of the capital's labor collectives, and recognized as victors, along with Moscow, the Kuybyshevskiy and Proletarskiy Rayons and 107 collectives of enterprises and organizations in industry, transportation, construction, municipal services, and the service sphere, and scientific institutions in the capital, awarding Challenge Red Banners to them all.

V.V. Grishin warmly congratulated the workers, engineers, technicians, and scientists from the enterprises and organizations victorious in socialist competition in 1983 on the successes achieved and the award of the Challenge Red Banners, and expressed his profound gratitude to all labor collectives for their selfless labor in the 3d year of the 5-year plan and for the high results achieved in socialist competition.

In accepting the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee, the speaker went on to note, it is necessary to proceed on the basis that the high assessment of Muscovites' labor brings with it many obligations and a requirement to work even better and achieve new successes in socialist competition.

While paying tribute to what has been achieved it is necessary to assess the results of work in a principled, critical way, see unresolved problems, and disclose existing reserves. The correct approach to the resolution of the problem faced can be implemented only from the standpoints of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums, since the difficulties and shortcomings which they discussed fully relate to Moscow's enterprises and organizations.

The recent gorkom plenum analyzed in depth the state of affairs in the city's economy. The causes of the existing shortcomings were disclosed and concrete measures to eradicate them were outlined in light of the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee December and February Plenums and by Comrade K.U. Chernenko.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee have instructed party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and economic organs to analyze comprehensively and in depth the results of socialist competition last year and to elaborate and implement specific measures ensuring the elimination of the existing shortcomings in work. This must be done in order to consolidate the labor upsurge and pace of competition and to turn the 4th year of the 11th 5-Year Plan into one of shock work. As the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums emphasized in particular, it is now important to maintain the tempo that has been built up and the general inclination toward the practical solution of tasks, to develop the positive trends more actively, and to make them stable in character. Thus the fulfillment of these instructions is the direct duty of party organizations, labor collectives, and all working people.

Moscow's working people, V.V. Grishin stressed, are now faced with complex and responsible tasks in the fulfillment of the economic and social development plans for 1984. The targets set for the city's economic sectors this year are demanding. The production and labor productivity growth rate is to be more than double the previous rate. The party's crucial assignment -- increasing labor productivity by 1 percent above the plan and reducing output prime costs by 0.5 percent -- must be fulfilled.

This makes it necessary for each labor collective to organize the production process efficiently, to observe plan, manufacturing, and labor discipline absolutely, to improve the forms and methods of economic leadership, to seek out internal reserves and bring them into production, and to make fuller use of the available potential. Enterprise collectives must focus their attention on questions of increasing labor productivity, reducing prime costs, making better use of the existing production potential, and improving output quality; the organizational and political work of party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and economic leaders must be geared toward this. The task is to ensure the fulfillment of the targets for 1984 and the 11th 5-Year Plan in all technical and economic indicators.

Following the guidelines of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, the capital's working people have launched widespread socialist competition for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1984 plan and are directing their efforts toward achieving high end results at all levels of the city's economy by further increasing production efficiency and work quality. With these aims in mind high socialist pledges have been adopted for 1984.

All labor collectives in the city's industry, construction, and transportation have adopted pledges to increase labor productivity by 1 percent above the plan and to reduce output prime costs by 0.5 percent.

Moscow's industrial workers are pledging to carry out a number of measures during 1984 to raise enterprises' technical standard and to increase the proportion of top quality output in the category subject to certification to 47.5 percent. It is intended to complete the 1984 state production plan ahead of schedule while observing contractual commitments for deliveries. The entire increase in production will be secured by achieving the planned level of labor intensiveness and increasing labor productivity.

Moscow's construction workers have pledged to ensure high quality work and to carry out construction and installation work worth R20 million above the plan. It is planned to commission more than 50 major projects ahead of schedule.

By making more efficient use of rolling stock, the collectives of transportation enterprises are pledging to ship an extra 2 million metric tons of freight above the plan and to reduce running costs in 1984 by R6 million. In conjunction with enterprises in other national economic sectors they plan to repair 120,000 freightcars and 100,000 container cars.

High socialist pledges have also been adopted by the collectives of scientific establishments and enterprises and organizations in municipal services, trade and consumer services.

It is the duty of party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations, economic leaders, and all labor collectives to ensure the successful fulfillment of the adopted pledges.

At the beginning of this year a group of advanced enterprises in the machine building sectors proposed a new form of socialist competition under the slogan "A two-shift work regime for the main equipment." The collectives putting forward this initiative have adopted a pledge to transfer the main production equipment and primarily highly productive equipment onto a two-shift work regime before the end of the year.

Every enterprise. V.V. Grishin stressed, must formulate specific packages of measures to eliminate the disproportions in shifts which make the use of production capacities less efficient. It is necessary to develop on a wide scale the movement that has been started to increase the work life of equipment, to ensure that the existing pool of machine tools, machinery, and mechanisms is loaded to full capacity and that uninstalled equipment is commissioned as quickly as possible, and to help to expand the services zones, the combining of allied trades, and multiple-machine working.

It is important to develop socialist competition for a worthy greeting to the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. More than 200,000 Muscovites have supported the initiative of production pacesetters and innovators to greet the USSR Supreme Soviet elections with shock work, to fulfill the targets for the first quarter of the year by 4 March, and to do 1 day's work using raw materials and material, fuel, and energy resources that have been saved. It is necessary to complete this competition in a well organized way and to make every Muscovite realize that in the present complex and extremely tense international situation highly productive labor is an obligation and patriotic duty.

It is necessary to comprehensively develop the movement to fulfill the party's target for an above-plan increase in labor productivity and an additional reduction in output prime costs, to more actively introduce team forms of labor organization and incentives, and to accelerate the introduction of advanced scientific and technical achievements into production.

In galvanizing working people for the struggle to fulfill the plans and socialist pledges, party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations must make more active use of the experience of leading collectives which are striving to make their enterprises the ideal in terms of the technical standard and organization of production, output quality, working conditions, and organization of ideological and educational work.

There are great tasks ahead for construction workers and municipal services. The integrated nature of the city's new building program [zastroyka] must be considerably enhanced. With the aim of improving people's living conditions, it is necessary to provide the planning, finance, and organization of construction so as to ensure that apartment blocks are commissioned at the same time as the essential cultural and consumer projects. It is necessary to consistently implement the plans for new buildings in the city center and for the establishment of conservation areas, central squares, and main roads. The new construction program should observe Moscow's particular features so that every new building merges organically into the city's external appearance. Measures should be taken to improve the standard of public services in the city. There is much to be done to improve consumer services in the city.

The Soviet people have accomplished great achievements in all areas of Communist construction. The 26th CPSU Congress' decisions in the economic sphere are being successfully implemented, the Soviet Union's defense potential has grown still further, our country's prestige in the international arena has risen, and the people's well-being is steadily increasing. Work must be continued in 1984 to improve economic management, raise the level of organization, and strengthen state, labor, and plan discipline. The party calls on all working people to step up the campaign for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the target for the year and the 5-year plan as a whole.

In conclusion, V.V. Grishin expressed the assurance that workers, engineering, technical, and scientific personnel, and working people in all sectors of the Moscow City economy and the party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and soviet and economic organs in the capital, inspired by the award to Moscow, its rayons, and labor collectives of the Challenge Red Banners, Komsomol Central Committee will step up the struggle to implement the decisions of the 26th congress, subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and the 25th Moscow City CPSU organization conference, launch socialist competition on an even wider scale, and achieve new successes in Communist construction.

ARTICLE ON SOVIET ARTISTS' CREATIVE FREEDOM

PM131425 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Socialist Democracy and Creative Freedom"]

[Text] The problem of freedom of artistic creativity has always troubled mankind's best minds. But only Marxism-Leninism has given this concept a profoundly scientific foundation and only under conditions of socialism and socialist democracy has this problem been truly and comprehensively resolved.

In his work "Party Organization and Party Literature" V.I. Lenin drew the fundamental conclusion that it is impossible to live in society and be free of society. Anarchy, according to Lenin, is the bourgeois lifestyle turned inside out. All willfulness in individual awareness and any attempt to avoid the struggle expresses in one way or another a definite position. V. I. Lenin contrasted literature that is subject to bourgeois morals, mercenary attitudes, careerism, and anarchy with art that has become part of the cause of the whole party and people and is openly linked with the "movement of the truly progressive and utterly revolutionary class" -- the proletariat -- and with millions and tens of millions of working people who constitute "the flower of the country, its strength, its future."

Here Lenin especially stressed that "literature is least amenable to mechanical smoothing out and leveling down and to the dominance of the majority over the minority."

Lenin's concept of a party attitude and creative freedom has become the cornerstone of our party's entire cultural policy. This was reflected and developed in the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums, and in other party policy documents. In his report at the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum, Comrade K.U. Chernenko, stressing the need to work in the spirit of party diligence and principle, noted that "the Leninist style of leadership of cultural building is distinguished by a profound understanding of the specifics and complexity of artistic creativity, and command methods and assessment by subjective taste are alien to it."

Creative freedom under socialism stems organically from the very essence and profound democracy of that system.

The life and creative road of the well known masters of Soviet literature and art is eloquent testimony to the fact that for any talented person the way is open in our country to free creativity and to the fullest flowering of his capabilities. Loyalty to the Leninist principles of orientation toward the party and people and the organic link with practical Communist construction act as true pointers for the Soviet artist in the struggle of ideas and in understanding the objective laws of reality, and help him to understand and reflect life in all its richness, diversity, and fullness with true artistic conviction. This is the guarantee of true creative freedom.

Throughout the socialist state's history, its class enemies and the apologists of bourgeois democracy have never tired of repeating the hackneyed thesis about the artist's "lack of freedom" in socialist society. What can one say about these "screeches of 'literary criticism'" as Lenin aptly described them in his day? The great Sholokhov, who has just left us, perhaps put it best and most accurately when he said: "Ill-intentioned enemies abroad allege that we Soviet writers write as the party decrees. The facts are somewhat different: each of us writes as his heart decrees, and our hearts belong to the party and our own people...."

The literary destiny of M.A. Sholokhov himself is the most vivid confirmation that creative freedom under socialism means the right and the extensive opportunity to express the supreme interests of one's people from Leninist party positions, reflect passionately and truthfully the period of great revolutionary transformations, and embody the shining ideals of the future in the heroes of one's works. Could any artist possibly have higher goals!

These goals coincide in Soviet society with the party's plans and outlines. In our country every artist's ouevre is indissolubly and organically linked with the life and activity of the whole of society. The sense of the social and political significance of his work, the clarity of class positions, and humanist enthusiasm inspire the artist, give him a sense of genuine freedom and open up boundless life and creative horizons. Soviet art has always been distinguished by innovation, a bold search for new forms of artistic expression, and the strengthening and further development of the foremost traditions of the fatherland's and world art.

The historical dispute between the bourgeois-anarchist and the Leninist, socialist concepts of creative freedom has been resolved in socialism's favor, convincingly and irrevocably. Today, under conditions of the improvement of the developed socialist society it is becoming increasingly evident that our further progress, the economy's successes, and the growth in working people's prosperity are creating favorable new prerequisites for a blossoming of multinational Soviet culture and for a steady and natural growth in its influence on society's life and the shaping of the Soviet person and his ideological, moral, and spiritual makeup.

For Soviet masters of the arts, the party's loyalty to the Leninist course, which was mentioned at the Extraordinary February Plenum of the Central Committee by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, means, for them, loyalty to the principles of orientation toward the party and people, adherence to the method of socialist realism, and implacability in the struggle against ideological and artistic unscrupulousness and lack of exactingness. It is undivided loyalty to these Leninist principles that makes the Soviet artist's creativity truly free.

In a few days' time the USSR Supreme Soviet elections will be held. Eminent masters of multinational Soviet literature and art have been named among the candidate deputies. This is yet another manifestation of our socialist democracy. The people entrust their artists not only with the fate of culture but also with the right to participate in the leadership of the state. A lofty and merited right!

MURDERS SOLVED, BELORUSSIAN OFFICIALS FIRED

PM141056 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed article in the column "Following IZVESTIYA Action": "'Shadow of an Error'"]

[Text] An article with this headline (IZVESTIYA No 330, 1983) told how a legal error was rectified and the real culprits were charged with four cases of murder and theft (chetyre ubiystva i khishcheniya). The editor has received a multitude of reactions to the article. The readers of IZVESTIYA have expressed their views on the facts contained in the article and have asked about the outcome of the trial of the murderers. They were also worried about the question of the liability of the officials who are to blame for the violations of socialist legality.

The editor has received official replies.

G. Bartoshevich, secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, has reported that the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee examined the article "Shadow of an Error" published in IZVESTIYA. The paper correctly reports the facts concerning the violation of socialist legality by certain personnel of the republic's law-enforcement organs when investigating the criminal case of the murders of S.D. Kuzmenko, inspector of the Mozyrskiy Rayon fish conservation inspectorate, and V.V. Kuzmenkov, investigator at the Mozyrskaya Interrayon prosecutor's office.

For inadequate leadership of the republic's internal affairs organs and for gross violations of socialist legality committed by militia personnel during the investigation of the murder case in Mozyrskiy Rayon, Belorussian SSR Minister of Internal Affairs G.N. Zhabitskiy has been relieved of his post. He was severely reprimanded and his CPSU record card was endorsed.

For failing to ensure proper supervision by the prosecutor's office of the investigation and court examination of the criminal case concerning the murders of Kuzmenko and Kuzmenkov, Belorussian SSR Prosecutor A.I. Mogilnitskiy was relieved of his post. He was severely reprimanded and his CPSU record card was endorsed accordingly.

Also relieved of their posts were Belorussian SSR First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs P.S. Zhuk, Belorussian SSR First Deputy Prosecutor P.V. Dudkovskiy, and Belorussian SSR Supreme Court Member V.V. Pylchenko. They were severely reprimanded and their CPSU record cards were endorsed accordingly.

For poor execution of official duties and gross violation of socialist legality, M.K. Zhavnerovich, former special investigator at the Belorussian SSR Prosecutor's Office, A.K. Gerasimov, former chief of the Mozyrskiy City and Rayon internal affairs department, and department personnel Ya.A. Gramovich and G.N. Triputen were expelled from the CPSU. Party and disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against a number of other law enforcement organ staff who committed unlawful actions when investigating the case mentioned in the article, and criminal proceedings are being instituted.

Specific measures have been outlined to eliminate the shortcomings, to ensure unswerving observance of socialist legality, to step up the struggle against crime and ensure public order, and also to strengthen the staffs of the Belorussian SSR Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

At the same time, as the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee's reply says, the author of the article "Shadow of an Error" failed to indicate that a full 2 months prior to the publication of the article the organs of the Prosecutor's Office had uncovered and eliminated the violations of socialist legality and quashed the unjustified verdict convicting Zukhta, Volodkovich, Galay, Denisov, and Kharseko of a murder they did not commit. But it was fully proved that they were guilty of poaching.

At that time the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee also checked out the facts relating to the violation of socialist legality by personnel of the law-enforcement organs, and prepared the matter for examination by the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

The editor has received a reply from USSR General Prosecutor A. Rekunkov who writes that the article "Shadow of an Error," published in IZVESTIYA 26 November 1983, is a correct treatment of the circumstances of the investigation of the criminal case concerning the murders of S.D. Kuzmenko, inspector of the Mozyrskiy Rayon fish conservation inspectorate, and V.V. Kuzemenkov, investigator at the Mozyrskaya Interrayon prosecutor's office in Gomel Oblast.

The prosecution and conviction of citizens Zukhta, Volodkovich, Galay, Denisov, and Kharseko for the murders came about as a result of violations of legality committed by certain members of the staff of the internal affairs organs and prosecutor's office.

The criminals who committed the murders of Kuzmenko and Kuzmenkov as well as a number of other serious crimes have now been convicted.

On 4 January 1984 the USSR Prosecutor's Office collegium considered the facts relating to violations of legality in the case of Zukhta. For failing to ensure proper prosecutor's office supervision of the investigation and court examination of the case, Belorussian SSR Prosecutor A.I. Mogilnitskiy was relieved of his post. Certain other Prosecutor's Office staffers have been severely dealt with.

Tasks of ensuring the strictest supervision of the observance of legality in the investigation of crimes and the examination of criminal cases in the courts were discussed on 24 January 1984 at a conference of Belorussian SSR Prosecutor's Office personnel attended by the USSR General Prosecutor.

Proceedings were instituted against the militia personnel who committed violations of legality, and the culprits have been prosecuted.

As a result of an appeal to the Prosecutor's Office the conviction of Zukhta and the other people for murder was quashed. The article's allegation that there was no proof that Zukhta and the others had been poaching is not true. They were fairly convicted of illegal fishing.

All the citizens' letters and statements to the USSR Prosecutor's Office in connection with the publication of the article have been carefully examined and the necessary steps have been taken.

The replies to the editor tell of the court's sentences of the real murderers. At the request of the editor our correspondent was at the trial.

When the article "Shadow of an Error" was printed, he reported, the bandits were already being tried, therefore we were unable to supply their real names. The trial in Gomel has ended -- and we can do so now. The article concerned the brothers, Vladimir, Vasiliy, and Grigoriy Konovalchuk and Vladimir's two sons, Konstantin and Gennadiy.

Those present in court listened with anger and indignation to the Konovalchuk's account of the "details" of the murders they had committed.

In the course of the trial the criminals' guilt was fully proved by witnesses and by damning material and circumstantial evidence.

They were tried by a visiting session of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Court. Vladimir Gerasimovich Konovalchuk, Vasiliy Gerasimovich Konovalchuk, and Konstantin Vladimirovich Konovalchuk were sentenced to the supreme penalty -- to be shot. Grigory Gerasimovich Konovalchuk was sentneced to 15 years imprisonment in a strict-regime corrective labor colony. Vladimir Konovalchuk's younger son, Gennadiy, who was not directly involved in the murders, was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

So a serious error has been rectified. Rectified as a result of decisive intervention by party and law-enforcement organs. Those who actually committed the most serious of crimes have received severe sentences.

Socialist legality has triumphed.

GEORGIA CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HAILS CHERNENKO

PM131620 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee,

To Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee,

On behalf of the republic's Communists the participants in the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum send warm, cordial greetings to the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and to Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plenum comprehensively discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum and the tasks for the republic's party organization stemming from the speech at the plenum by Comrade K.U. Chernenko. The plenum's participants, like all the Communists and all the working people of Soviet Georgia, received with profound satisfaction and warmly approve the results of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the election of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The consistent Leninist domestic and foreign policy of the party and the Soviet state and the firm resolve of the CPSU Central Committee headed by Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko to continue to lead the country along the unchanging course of peace, communism, and progress evoke the total support and warm approval of all strata of the Georgian SSR's population. The working people see their patriotic and international duty in further strengthening the motherland's economic and defense might, in shock, creative, and highly productive labor, and in communist creation for the good of the people.

The unanimous election of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and true comrade in arms and worthy successor to such leaders of the Leninist type as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, is a vivid and graphic manifestation of the profound respect, great prestige, and immense trust that he has won among Communists and all Soviet people and constitutes recognition of his personal contribution to elaborating and implementing the political course of the Leninist party headquarters. Comrade K.U. Chernenko devotes his vast knowledge, inexhaustible energy, and enormous political experience to the party, the motherland, the people, and the cause of preserving and consolidating world peace.

Communists, working people, and all strata of the republic's population see Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as a great friend of Soviet Georgia. The warmth and cordiality of his meetings and the advice, indications, and recommendations expressed by Konstantin Ustinovich during his October 1982 stay in Tbilisi to present the Order of Lenin to the city were a powerful inspirational incentive to the Georgian SSR'S working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and people's intelligentsia to reach new heights in all spheres of communist construction.

Having discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plenum considers the consistent implementation of the propositions and conclusions expounded in the speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko to be the republic party organization's paramount task. On that basis, the plenum directed the attention of Communists to intensifying the economy, consistently introducing the latest achievements of science and technology into production, and improving the entire economic mechanism. Extensive socialist competition is under way in the republic to fulfill the plans and pledges of the 4th year of the 5-year plan ahead of schedule and to unconditionally ensure an above-plan 1-percent increase in labor productivity and an additional 0.5-percent reduction in output prime cost in every sector, at every enterprise, and at every workplace.

Strictly guided in its practical activity by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, the republic party organization sees its main task in improving the style and methods of the party's leadership of the economy and the activity of state and public organizations and in eliminating duplication in their work.

Georgia's Communists will continue to strengthen ties with the broad masses of the working people, support labor collectives' initiatives in every possible way, augment the positive changes in all spheres of the national economy and public life, and establish a businesslike attitude and an atmosphere of exactingness and creativity everywhere. The republic's party organization will persistently implement the directives of the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum and the tasks of molding the new socialist type of person put forward in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's report. In its educational, ideological, and political work the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, party committees, and primary party organizations will rely on the working class' experience and class consciousness and the working people's public opinion, and will make more active use of moral and material labor incentives.

The number one task for the republic party organization and every Communist and the key, fundamental, and most important question of all its activity is the further strengthening of discipline, organization, and order, the struggle against mismanagement and all phenomena alien to the Soviet way of life, and inculcation in every Soviet citizen of a sense of lofty responsibility to the party and the people.

An extensive and interested discussion of the results of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum is currently under way at party committee plenums, in primary party organizations, at plants and factories, on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and in organizations and institutions. Communists unanimously express their desire and will to put party plans into practice. Party organizations are closely linking the resolution of the production tasks of this year and the 5-year plan as a whole with the preparations for and the holding of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. They are striving to mark the 4th year of the 5-year plan with significant new achievements in all spheres of economic and cultural life.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plenum assures the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, that the Communists and all the working people of Georgia will spare no effort, knowledge, energy, and experience to implement the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

Steadily following the Leninist course, the course of communist creation, the Georgian Communist Party has been, is, and will be a militant, tried and tested detachment of Lenin's great party.

The participants in the 16th Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum, 24 February 1984.

KIRGHIZ PLENUM LAUDS CHERNENKO, SETS PARTY TASKS

PM131529 Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report on a Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] A routine Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee plenum was held on 22 February 1984.

The plenum discussed the question "The CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum's results and the republic party organization's tasks arising from the provisions and conclusions contained in the speech at the plenum by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee."

The report was delivered by Comrade T.U. Usubaliyev, first secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee.

Speakers in the debates on the report were K.M. Moldobayev, first secretary of Frunze Gorkom; A.M. Masaliyev, first secretary of Issyk-kul Obkom; N.N. Parkalova, milkmaid at the Ilich breeding farm in Keminskiy Rayon; R.S. Kulmatov, first secretary of Osh Obkom; R. Atageldiyeva, tractor driver at the Ulyanov Kolkhoz in Dzhangi-Dzholskiy Rayon; K. Myrzabekov, chairman of Naryn Oblispolkom; A.V. Tsibigey, arc welder at the M.V. Frunze agricultural machine building plant; E.E. Aliyev, chairman of Talas Oblispolkom; A.M. Mamyrkaliyev, first secretary of Alamedinskiy Raykom; A. Mamyrov, party committee secretary of the Ketmen-Tyube Sovkhoz in Toktogulskiy Rayon; A.M. Malov, first secretary of Kyzyk-Kiya Gorkom; E. Abakirov, chairman of the Kirghiz trade union soviet; and A. Kasymbayev, first secretary of Batkenskiy Raykom.

The keynote speaker and those who spoke in the debates noted that our party's invincible strength consists in the monolithic cohesion of its ranks and its indissoluble unity with the people. This great unity of the party and the Soviet people's cohesion around their Leninist vanguard were demonstrated with renewed force in connection with the grave loss caused by the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, an outstanding figure of the Communist Party and Soviet state and of the world communist and workers movement, fervent Leninist and patriot, and tireless fighter for peace and communism.

Like the whole party and all the Soviet people, the republic's Communists and working people greeted with warm approval the decisions of the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum which unanimously elected Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko to be general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and people's intelligentsia of Kirghizstan received with tremendous enthusiasm K.U. Chernenko's policy speech at the plenum, which is a document of great political and mobilizing significance.

The report and the speeches noted that the Communists and all working people of Soviet Kirghizstan know well and have a profound respect for Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as an outstanding politician and statesman, consistent Marxist-Leninist, and loyal comrade-in-arms of such leaders of the Leninist type as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. The plenum participants said that Comrade K.U. Chernenko, for many years a member of our party's leading nucleus -- the Central Committee Politburo -- is making a great contribution to the formulation and implementation of our party's general Leninist line. His multifaceted fruitful activity provides a vivid example of selfless service to the party, the people, and the socialist fatherland and a vivid demonstration of the best features of a communist leader of the Leninist type.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's theoretical activity is widely recognized. His fundamental works provide a generalization of the multifaceted creative activity of the party and its Central Committee under conditions of developed socialism, and contain an important contribution to the development of Marxist-Leninist teaching and the cause of enriching the experience of the party and state leadership of communist construction. They gave invaluable assistance to party and soviet organs in their creative work in implementing the party's grand designs.

The Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee plenum adopted an appropriate resolution on the question under discussion. The plenum fully approved and adopted for steadfast guidance and execution the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum and the provisions and conclusions contained in the plenum speech of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, and instructed party committees to base the work of all the republic's party, soviet, trade union, and economic organs on them when fulfilling the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and the tasks of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

The republic's obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms and primary party organizations are instructed to implement practical measures to further improve the style and methods of economic leadership, improve the work of the state apparatus, and distinguish clearly between the functions of party committees and the tasks of state and economic organs. It is an extremely important task for the republic's party organization to consistently and steadfastly implement the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenum guidelines which state that it is now important to maintain the momentum that has been built up and the general inclination toward the practical solution of tasks, the active development of positive trends and the imparting to them of a stable character, and the consistent use of reserves to ensure the more rapid development of all national economic sectors.

To this end it is necessary to launch socialist competition on an increasingly wide scale and to give all-around support to labor collectives' creative initiatives and undertakings. It is necessary to continue to strengthen organization and discipline in all sectors and labor collectives and to steadily enhance the responsibility of cadres at all levels for the task in hand.

The Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee plenum assured the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, that the Communists and all working people of Soviet Kirghizstan, armed with the clear and precise guidelines of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, will use all their strength, knowledge, and experience to successfully fulfill the 26th CPSU Congress decisions and the 11th 5-Year Plan targets and will make a weighty contribution to the further strengthening of our multinational socialist motherland's economic and defense might.

With this the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee plenum ended its work.

UZBEKISTAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HELD 20 FEB

PM131528 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Report on the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The 14th Plenum of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee was held on 20 February.

A report entitled "The Results of the February (1984) CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the Tasks of the Republic's Party Organization Arising out of the Propositions and Conclusions Contained in the Speech by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K.U. Chernenko" was delivered by comrade I.B. Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee.

Comrades M. Kh. Khudaybergenov, first secretary of Khorezm Obkom; A.A. Petrov, director of the Navoi mining and smelting combine; A.K. Karimov, first secretary of Surkhan-Darya Obkom; A.I. Kuznetsov, welder at the Kinap plant in Samarkand; S.M. Mamarasulov, first secretary of Andizhan Obkom; Z. Nasyrov, director of the Soviet Uzbekistan Sovkhoz in Takhtakupyrskiy Rayon; V.A. Khaydurov, first secretary of Syr-Darya Obkom; M.M. Mirzayev, general director of the R.R. Shreder science and production association for fruit growing, viticulture and wine making; and B.A. Allamuradov, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Komsomol Central Committee, contributed to the debate.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the matter under discussion. At this point the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee plenum ended.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE LAUDS UFA HYDROCARBONS WORKERS

PM131240 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee message: "A Labor Victory"]

[Text] To all who participated in the construction of the aromatic hydrocarbon production complex at the Ufa 22d CPSU Congress petroleum refinery.

Dear comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee congratulates you on a remarkable labor victory -- the construction of the unique aromatic hydrocarbon production unit at the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry's 22d CPSU Congress petroleum refinery in Ufa.

The commissioning of this major modern enterprise is a big contribution to the fulfillment of the 26th CPSU Congress' decisions in the sphere for further utilizing chemicals in the national economy. The plant's workers, technical and engineering personnel, and employees developed extensive socialist competition, ensured the ahead-of-schedule assimilation of the planned production capacity, and have produced a considerable quantity of valuable products in excess of the 1983 plan.

The successes achieved are the result of purposeful organizational and mass political work by the party organizations of Bashkiria and the extensive use of progressive designs and industrial methods of construction.

We express firm confidence that the collectives of construction workers and operators, implementing the instructions of the December (1983) and February (1984) Central Committee Plenums, will mark the current year with highly productive labor and will put all their resources and accumulated experience into the fulfillment of the plan targets for 1984 and for the 5-year plan as a whole.

We wish you, dear comrades, new labor successes.

RESCUE OF ICE-BOUND TANKER IN ANIVA BAY REPORTED

PM130936 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 8 Mar 84 p 4

[N. Artapukh dispatch in the column "Laws of Courage": "Freed From Icy Captivity"]

[Text] Vladivostok -- An unusual convoy of ships has arrived in the port of Korsakov: in front was the icebreaker Vladivostok, behind which was the Sakhalin rescue ship Deymos, towing the tanker Nerchinsk, which was suffering from a heavy list caused by being encased in a block of ice. The tanker's captain, A.V. Kostygov, had radioed the Maritime Kray navigation directorate 27 February to report that the Nerchinsk, lying in Aniva Bay, not far from Cape Anastasiya, was being crushed by ice and that the vessel might be carried on to reefs by the current. It had a 20-degree list to starboard and the crew's efforts to break the ice had been unsuccessful. The Sakhalin rescue ship Deymos was sent to assist. The situation had, however, sharply deteriorated. The starboard list was now 31 degrees. Sheets of ice had risen up the side of the ship in a matter of hours to form a 2-meter-high wall above the deck. The captain ordered his crew to be taken off the tanker and on to the ice.

The Deymos cleared the ice around the Nerchinsk, but when the icebreaker Vladivostok reached the scene of the incident, the captains took the decision to convey the Nerchinsk, still encased in a block of ice, to the port of Korsakov, which was 55 miles away. The convoy of ships sailed with particular caution for almost 24 hours. Special services awaited the Nerchinsk in port to free it from its icy captivity. The tanker crew is now ready to set out again for sea.

VREMYA READS CPSU TRAPEZNKOV OBITUARY

LD132156 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The Central Committee of the CPSU with deep sorrow announces that on 12 March, 1984, after a prolonged illness, in the 73rd year of his life, member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, state pensioner, corresponding memeber of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov, passed away.

The obituary, signed by leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, says:

Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov began his working life in 1924 as a laborer on kulaks' farms. He took an active part in carrying out collectivization. In 1931 he joined the Communist Party. From 1935 he was involved in party work. From 1965 Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov was head of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the Central Committee of the CPSU. At the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th party congresses, Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov was elected member of the Central Committee of the CPSU. He was a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th convocations.

In all sections of party and scientific activity, Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov gave of his strength and knowledge, organizational abilities and experience to the service of the great cause of the Leninist party, the development of Soviet science and education. The Communist Party and the Soviet government highly valued the services of Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov. He was awarded two Orders of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, two orders of the Labor Red Banner and medals.

The bright memory of Sergey Pavlovich Trapeznikov, loyal son of the Communist Party and the Soviet people, will be preserved in our hearts for ever, the obituary says.

BRIEFS

BANNER FOR LABOR PRODUCTIVITY -- The Russian Federation was presented today with the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the VLKSM Central Committee on the results of its industry's work in 1983. At a session of the republic's Council of Ministers, the tasks of the administrative and economic organs, set by the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and in the speech by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, were discussed. It was noted that the republic's labor collectives have in the first 2 months of this year fulfilled the plan for the sale of output by 101.4 percent. Labor productivity has been raised substantially and positive advances are noticeable in agriculture, particularly in livestock farming. It was stressed at the session that intensification and a very strict economy effort at every workplace are a key direction in the work of all industries in the republic's national economy. It is essential that the struggle for economy in the use of raw materials, electric power, fuel and other material resources be intensified. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Mar 84 LD]

PUBLICATIONS ON SIBERIA -- Scientists of the Buryat branch of the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences have discussed the problems connected with the preparations for the publication of a 60-volume series "Pamyatniki Narodov Sibiri i Dalnego Vostoka" ["Monuments of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East"] This is the first publication of its kind in the world. This 60-volume series is being brought out within the framework of the Sibiri state scientific program. At present, folklore scholars are preparing for publication of the volumes during this 5-year plan period. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 84 LD]